

via fax: 011 504 2290 5129 Ana Piñeda Minister for Justice and Human Rights of Honduras	Via fax: 011 504 2221 5667 Sr. Luis Alberto Rubí Attorney General of Honduras
--	--

February 12, 2011

Dear Sir and Madam:

We continue to be concerned for the safety of the members of the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ). On January 31 a **Honduran lawyer working for the ASJ**, who has asked not to be named, received threats by anonymous text message that said, "Stop putting your nose where you shouldn't" and referred to a previous threat in October against another ASJ member who was abducted and threatened with death by unknown men (cf our letter of November 11, 2010).

We believe both incidents are closely related to ASJ's work to promote human rights and to oppose impunity. Although they have had increased protection since the October incident, the threats against their lawyers continue. There has been no progress in the investigation of previous incidents; those responsible for the abduction and threats remain unknown and at large.

The ASJ has been the target of intimidation and violence since ASJ lawyer, Dionisio Díaz García, was killed on December 4, 2006 by a man on a motorbike. At the time he was killed, Dionisio García had been representing a number of former security guards who claimed to have been unfairly dismissed. Following his killing the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights issued the ASJ with protection measures.

We **strongly urge** you to:

- conduct an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the incident and the threats against the ASJ lawyer, make the results public, and bring those responsible to justice;
- fully investigate the incidents against the ASJ and end impunity for attacks against human rights defenders;
- remember that human rights defenders have a right to carry out their activities without any unfair restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: ASJ ~ via email
 Jorge Ramon Hernández Alcerro, Honduran Amabassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751
 Hugo Llorens, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax 011-504-236-9037
 Jeremy Spector, Attaché for Human Rights and Labor, US Embassy to Honduras ~ via email
 Benjamin Gadan, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax 202-647-2597
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202 458-3650
 US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email
 US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

UA_228/10/Update_Honduras

The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter: