

<p>Via Fax: 011-504-2269-3069  <b>Jorge Alberto Rivera Avilés</b>          President of the Supreme Court of Honduras</p>	<p>Via Fax: 011-504-2221-5667  <b>Luis Alberto Rubí</b>          Attorney General of Honduras</p>
---	---

March 18, 2011

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about the acts of harassment, persecution, and psychological aggression against **Leo Valladares Lanza**, the former human rights commissioner of Honduras and the current director of the Association for Participatory Citizenship (ACI Participa).

Since the second week of February, unknown individuals have called the Valladares residence numerous times asking for "Rodrigo," referring to José Rodrigo Valladares Piñeda, Leo Valladares' young son who was murdered January 25, 2009 and whose death remains in impunity. An unknown motorcycle has also been driving near the residence and accelerating its motor in front of the house to such an extent that it activates the house alarm.

On February 21 a taxi, which had for some time been parking outside Valladares' home, followed him to the café where he was having a private meeting with Nora Urbina, the special prosecutor for children. The driver made several cellphone calls while parked outside. Alarmed neighbors informed the Valladares family, and the special prosecutor requested an escort for his return home.

On March 1, the same taxi, accompanied by another vehicle, parked outside the Valladares home. The family called the police, who, after questioning the drivers, recommended that the family leave for a time and take additional security precautions.

The preceding events occurred after Valladares spoke on a television program about the repositioning of the armed forces, the resurgence of militarism in post-coup d'état Honduras, and the incorporation of the military in the structures of the executive powers of the state. During his time as human rights commissioner, he presented reports on disappeared detainees, arbitrary and summary executions, and the state of freedom of expression in Honduras.

Because we believe Mr. Valladares' life is in danger we **strongly urge you** that you

- initiate an independent, impartial, and exhaustive investigation into the threats against him, make the results public and ensure that the responsible parties appear in court;
- take immediate measures to provide effective and appropriate protection to Leo Valladares, according to his wishes.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

cc: COFADEH ~ via fax: 504.220.5280  
 Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Amabassador to the US ~ via fax  
 Hugo Llorens, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax  
 Jeremy Spector, Attache for Human Rights and Labor, US Embassy to Honduras ~ via fax  
 Benajmin Gadan, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax  
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: (202)458-3992  
 US Senators Brown and Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

COFADEH 3/11\_Honduras\_6<sup>th</sup> letter March

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