

via fax: 011 504 2221 5667**Sr. Luis Alberto Rubi**
Attorney General of Hondurasvia email: apineda@casapresidencial.gob.hn**Ana Pineda**
Minister for Justice and Human Rights of Honduras

April 1, 2012

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are very concerned for the safety of journalist **Mavis Ethel Cruz** based in San Pedro Sula, where she hosts the daily radio program, "News by the Hour," on the station Radio Libertad. On February 29, when she was at home shortly after the program ended, her husband answered a phone call from a woman who said she was looking for Mavis Ethel. The caller refused to identify herself but said, "Tell Mavis that we'll break her, but first we'll begin with her son, because she is stirring up trouble there [on the radio program]." The program covers current affairs and themes of general interest. Prior to the telephone threat it had included news and discussions on labor issues, corruption and police reform.

Mavis Ethel Cruz reported the incident the next day to the Public Prosecutor's office and the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman.

During the United Nations (UN) Universal Periodic Review of Honduras in November 2010, the government made a commitment to fulfill their obligation to protect journalists, but has since done little to ensure that journalists can carry out their work free from threats and attacks. Following the June 2009 coup d'etat, soldiers closed and occupied media outlets, attacked, threatened and intimidated media workers, particularly those investigating organized criminal activity and human rights violations. Nineteen media employees have been killed in the past two years. We have written you numerous letters concerning the murders and constant threats to journalists (cf our most recent letters of Feb 2 and Feb 3).

In light of these facts, we **strongly urge** you to

- order an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats against Mavis Ethel Cruz, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- take immediate action to protect journalists and community radio broadcasters; and
- fulfill the commitment made by the Honduran government to the United Nations in November 2010 to investigate attacks and murders of journalists, and to legally recognize community radio stations.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: C-Libre ~ via US mail
Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751
Lisa Kubiske, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax
Nathan Anderson, Attache for Human Rights and Labor, US Embassy to Honduras ~ via email
Benjamin Gadan, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax 202.647.2597
Christopher Johnson, Diplomacy Officer for Central America, US State Dept. ~ via email
Dinah Shelton, Chair, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202 458.3992
US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email
US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

UA 78/12 Honduras

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