

via fax: 011 504 2269 3069 <b>Jorge Alberto Rivera Avilés</b> President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras	via fax: 011-504-2221-5667 <b>Luis Alberto Rubí</b> Attorney General of Honduras
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May 15, 2012

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of members of the **Honduras Accompaniment Project (PROAH)**, an international organization that provides accompaniment for high-risk human rights defenders.

On April 22 a member of the PROAH received a text message sent from a phone company website to her mobile phone. The message referred to members of an organization that PROAH accompanies: "From: CAM 14/88> who do we begin with. pedro, elena or alan (names changed to protect identity), ...in the end, the result will be the same." On the afternoon of April 26 another PROAH team member received a text message on her mobile phone, also sent from a telephone company website, with the message: "cam . . . UNTIL WE STICK A BULLET IN YOUR HEAD YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP QUIET." Both threats were also sent to members of the organization PROAH that accompanies.

CAM is the acronym for the Álvarez Martínez Commando Group, a paramilitary group that has threatened, harassed and intimidated human rights defenders since the 2009 coup d'état. The name refers to General Gustavo Álvarez Martínez, who was head of the Honduran armed forces and is considered to be responsible for serious human rights violations under the National Security Doctrine of the 1980s.

These recent threats from CAM are in addition to others sent to human rights defenders over the past few weeks, creating a volatile situation for human rights defenders and journalists. Since our May 2 letter to Honduran officials about threats to journalist Dina Meza, another journalist, Erik Martínez, has been assassinated. The National Commissioner of Human Rights, Ramon Custodio, recently condemned the violence against the journalists' union in Honduras, and reported that at least 21 media workers have been killed in Honduras in the last three years.

Because we believe the PROAH team and the human rights defenders that it accompanies are at high risk, we **strongly urge** you to:

- take the necessary measures to stop the harassment and threats directed at all members of PROAH in particular, and against the community of human rights defenders in general;
- conduct an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into these threats, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- take concrete measures to implement the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1998.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: COFADEH ~ via fax: 011.504.220.1528  
Dr. Ramón Custodio López, National Human Rights Commissioner ~ via fax 011 504 2232 6894  
Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751  
Lisa Kubiske, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax 011 504 2236 9037  
Nathan Anderson, Attache for Human Rights and Labor, US Embassy to Honduras ~ via email  
Benjamin Gedan, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax 202.647.2597  
Christopher Johnson, Diplomacy Officer for Central America, US State Dept. ~ via email  
Tracy Robinson, Rapporteur for Honduras, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202 458.3992  
US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email  
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**The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter:**