

via fax: 011 504 2220 1756 <b>Sr. Pompeyo Bonilla</b> Minister of Interior and Security of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 239 3298 <b>Sr. Porfirio Lobo Sosa</b> President of the Republic of Honduras
via fax: 011 504 2221 3302 <b>Sr. Luis Alberto Rubí</b> Attorney General of the Republic of Honduras	

September 21, 2012

Dear Sirs:

We are gravely concerned for the safety of ex-political prisoner **Humberto Castillo**, who has not been seen since he was taken by unknown men on August 30. He was arrested in November 2009 (five months after the coup d'état) and was held as a political prisoner in the National Penitentiary. On June 8 of this year he was released on probation following several appeals by lawyers from the Committee of the Families of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH). At the time of his arrest, Castillo was accused by the Public Prosecution Service (*Ministerio Público*) of illegal possession of weapons, terrorism and conspiracy. In 2011, following an appeal by COFADEH, the Court of Appeals dropped the charges of conspiracy and illegal possession of weapons.

The day Castillo was released he said, "It was hard being in prison, because of the food, security and a lot of other things that go on inside. I received threats on my cell-phone and now that I'm out I fear for my life, because if they could threaten me while I was inside, there's no end to what they can do now that I'm out."

We believe Humberto Castillo's life is in grave danger. We therefore **strongly urge** that you

- conduct an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the whereabouts of Humberto Castillo, make the results public, and bring those responsible brought to justice; and
- take urgent steps to fully protect his life.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

Copies: Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Amabassador 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 ~ via email  
 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:**