

via fax: 011 504 2232 1666 or 2239 3298

**Sr. Presidente Porfirio Lobo Sosa**  
President of Honduras

via fax: 011 504 221 5667

**Sr. Luis Alberto Rubí**  
Attorney General of Honduras

September 22, 2012

Dear Sirs:

We are very concerned for the safety of **Gladys Lanza Ochoa**, coordinator of the Honduran Women's Committee for Peace "Visitación Padilla," a collective of women human rights defenders who work on issues of gender violence and women's participation in public life. On August 22 an unidentified man dressed in black, wearing a helmet, on a black, unlicensed motorcycle asked her for directions. Fearing for her safety, she continued walking and entered a nearby business. At the same time a black van with tinted windows and no license plate drove slowly past. When she later left the business because she thought the danger had passed, the black motorcycle reappeared. When the man saw her he turned and drove away.

This incident is the latest of a series of threats and intimidation against **Ms. Lanza Ochoa** and her colleagues (cf our letter of Aug 13, 2010). Family members have also reported being threatened, followed and photographed.

On October 5, 2009 the government of Honduras accepted a request from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for precautionary protection measures for Lanza Ochoa and on September 2, 2010 the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ordered provisional measures for her protection. To date, the government has not complied with either of these orders.

We believe Gladys Lanza Ochoa is in imminent danger. Therefore, we **strongly urge** that you:

- carry out an immediate, thorough, and impartial investigation of the intimidation, harassment and threats against her;
- ensure that all protective measures granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and ordered by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights are immediately implemented in order to protect her and her family, in accordance with their wishes; and
- guarantee that all human rights defenders in Honduras are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai,  
Coordinator

cc: 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 ~ 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:**