

via email Sra. Ana Pineda Minister of Justice and Human Rights of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 22201756 Sr. Pompeyo Bonilla Minister of Interior of Honduras
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January 22, 2013

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of **Erick Vidal Martínez**, a coordinating member of the Honduran Resistance Movement (FNRP) and primary candidate for congress under the LIBRE party.

On December 13, 2012 Mr. Martínez was at a bar that is frequented by members of the Sexual Diversity Community in the Colonia Loma del Guijarro of Tegucigalpa. National police came and ordered it to close early. Erick Martínez left the scene and returned later to document the incident. He documented intimidation, police beatings and humiliating comments about the sexual orientation of several detainees.

A group of national police assaulted Erick Martínez and seized his cell phone that was documenting the police abuse. He and two others were arbitrarily and illegally arrested and taken to the police post in Barrio El Manchen of Tegucigalpa. The contents of his phone were erased, his car was searched and items were illegally confiscated. Through the intervention of a lawyer from the Center for Research and Protection of Human Rights (CIPRODEH), Mr. Martínez was released that afternoon.

Because of Mr. Martínez's work for human rights and the high number of attacks on members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community in Honduras, his life is under high risk. Since the 2009 coup in Honduras, more than 70 members of the LGBT community have been assassinated and many more the subject of hate crimes. More than 300 members of the pro-democracy resistance movement have been assassinated.

We **strongly urge** you to:

- take immediate steps to provide appropriate protection to Erick Vidal Martínez, in accordance with his wishes;
- conduct an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into all incidents of intimidation and threats against Erick Vidal Martínez, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice; and
- immediately end the repression, violence, illegal detentions and police brutality against the LGBT community.

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, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

Presente Honduras

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