

via fax: 011 504 2221 5662 Special Intervening Committee Public Prosecutor's Office of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 2220 1711 Sr. Juan Carlos Bonilla Director of National Police of Honduras
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July 11, 2013

Dear Sirs:

We are outraged and saddened at the assassination of journalist **Aníbal Barrow**. His tortured body was found July 9 after having been disappeared two weeks earlier. He was buried today.

On June 24 **Aníbal Barrow** hosted his daily news program on Globo TV. He interviewed candidates of the resistance Libre Party and talked about the fourth anniversary of the coup d'état. Later at approximately 3:45pm, three heavily-armed men in a white Mitsubishi pickup truck with no license plates, intercepted the vehicle in which Aníbal Barrow was travelling with two relatives and a driver. The men forced his relatives and the driver out of the car and drove off with Aníbal Barrow. This occurred near the Olympic Stadium in San Pedro Sula in Cortés Department

At 6.30pm authorities found Aníbal Barrow's empty vehicle near a sugar cane field on the city's outskirts. There were traces of blood inside and a bullet hole in the side front window next to the passenger seat.

On July 5 police arrested four people in connection with the abduction. One of those suspects began to cooperate and, on July 9, led authorities to a sugarcane field in Villanueva. There they found his mutilated body. His head, arms, legs and feet had been cut from his torso and scattered. His clothes had been buried nearby the torso, along with other personal objects, such as bank cards. The authorities were able to fully identify the body the next day, after forensic tests had been carried out.

This is the latest incident of recurring attacks on journalists. According to the National Commissioner for Human Rights, approximately 28 journalists have been killed since January 2010 when the current government took office. We urge you to

- launch a full, impartial and independent investigation into the abduction and assassination of Aníbal Barrow, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice.
- investigate whether the abduction and assassination of Aníbal Barrow was linked to his work as a journalist; and
- take all necessary steps to prevent attacks on journalists and provide protection measures when they are at risk of attack

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Co-coordinator

CC: 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 fax 011 504 2238-4446
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, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

UA 165/13_Honduras

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