

via fax: 011 504 2221 5667 Sr. Oscar Chincilla Banegas Attorney General of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 2220 1756 or 2232-0226 Sr. Arturo Corrales Minister of Interior of Honduras
via fax: 011 504 2232-0226 Lic. Karla Eugenia Cueva Sub-secretary for Justice and Human Rights of Honduras	via email: central@conadeh.hn Sr. Roberto Herrera Cáceres National Human Rights Commissioner of Honduras

June 24, 2014

Dear Sirs and Madam:

We are concerned for the safety of staff and members of the human rights organization COFADEH (Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras/Committee of Families of Disappeared-Detainees in Honduras). Since COFADEH presented reports on human rights violations in Honduras in April-May 2014, staff and members have been subjected to increased surveillance and assault.

Since February 2014, vehicles without plates have been driving slowly around the COFADEH office during the night and when staff are leaving the office in the evening. Some park close to the office and observe the staff's movements. Since May 13, a red Toyota Corolla with a black stripe and darkened windows has parked daily at 7am when the staff arrive; it remains until the end of the day, without anyone getting in or out of the vehicle.

On June 5, 2014, at 3pm, a female member of COFADEH was the victim of a temporary abduction in a taxi. Four people (three men and a woman) were inside and physically assaulted her while they drove around the city for two hours. They hit the woman's face and tried to choke her. She suffered injuries to her leg, neck and left hand caused by a pencil. The incident occurred when she was leaving an event on "Displacement Due to Violence."

COFADEH has been granted precautionary protection measures by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), yet these threats and abuses continue. Therefore, we strongly urge the authorities in Honduras to:

- Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the surveillance and physical attacks against members of COFADEH, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice, in accordance with international standards;
- Take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of the members of COFADEH, in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Guarantee in all circumstances 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
Co-Coordinator

copies: COFADEH: Committee of the Families of the Detained and Disappeared of Honduras ~ via email
Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751
Lisa Kubiske, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via email
Amanda Johnson-Miller, Human Rights and Labor Office, US Embassy ~ via email
Kelsey Cambronne, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via email
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
Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email
US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

Jun 10_FrontlineDefenders

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