

via fax: 011 504 229 05088 <b>Sr. Juan Orlando Hernández</b> President of the Republic of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 2221 5667 <b>Sr. Oscar Chinchilla Banegas</b> Attorney General of Honduras
via email: <a href="mailto:mission@hondurasginebra.ch">mission@hondurasginebra.ch</a> <b>SE Sr Giampaolo Carmelo Rizzo Alvarado</b> Ambassador, Honduras Permanent Mission at United Nations	

October 11, 2014

Dear Sirs:

We are very disturbed at the break-in of the offices of the Association for a Better Life (APUVIMEH) in Tegucigalpa. APUVIMEH works with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (LGBTI) and those affected by HIV/AIDS. It operates a shelter for people with HIV/AIDS and runs several projects, including a program for prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, and a gay youth project.

On the night of September 29 closed-circuit television cameras (CCTV) showed three unknown individuals breaking into the APUVIMEH offices via the second floor balcony. One intruder entered the building while the other two waited on the balcony to be handed laptops containing confidential documents on the work of the organization, as well as the database of collaborators and benefactors. Sandra Zambrano, Coordinator of APUVIMEH, made a formal complaint to the investigative authorities the following day, but when they arrived at the office, they did not come equipped with the powder required to take fingerprints. They informed her that it would be three working days before they could assign an investigator to the case and did not take CCTV footage of the incident. Sandra Zambrano has been unable to contact the person in the Secretariat of Public Security who is responsible for following up on the security measures ordered for APUVIMEH by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

This break-in occurs in the context of an increased number of attacks against organizations that work for the rights of the LGBTI community (cf our letters of Aug 26 and Dec 25 2013).

**We strongly urge you to**

- carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the break-in at the offices of APUVIMEH, publish the results, and bring those responsible to justice;
- take all necessary measures to guarantee the safety of members of APUVIMEH and the security of their office and equipment;
- ensure that the Secretariat of Public Security is informed of this latest case and reacts promptly, guaranteeing full implementation of all security measures as ordered by the IACHR;
- guarantee in all circumstances that all LGBTI rights defenders and organizations 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: Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751  
James Nealon, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax 011 504 2236 9037  
Mariana Grayson, Human Rights and Labor Attaché, US Embassy in Honduras ~ via fax 011 504 2236 9037  
Kelsey Cambronne, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via email [CambronneKL@state.gov](mailto:CambronneKL@state.gov)  
Christopher Johnson, Diplomacy Officer for Central America, US State Dept. ~ via email [JohnsonCD@state.gov](mailto:JohnsonCD@state.gov)  
Tracy Robinson, Rapporteur for Honduras and Rapporteur for the Rights of LGBTI Persons, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202 458.3992  
US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

Frontline 10/3/14\_Honduras

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