

URGENT ACTION

PROTECT LGBT ACTIVIST UNDER THREAT

LGBT activist and human rights defender Alex David Sánchez Álvarez was threatened at gunpoint for the third time this year, on 8 June. Amnesty International believes that his life is in danger.

On the morning of 8 June, at about 8.10am, Alex David Sánchez Álvarez was on his way to the *Centro de Prevención, Tratamiento y Rehabilitación de las Víctimas de la Tortura y sus Familiares* - CPTRT (Centre for the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims and their Families) where he works as a nurse. Alex David Sánchez Álvarez had just got out of a taxi three blocks away from the office, and walked past a beige car with tinted windows which was in stationary traffic. In the car there were three men dressed in the special uniform of the police "Cobra" unit. The passenger in the front wound the window down, pointed a gun at Alex David Sánchez Álvarez and said, "This is the little queer ... yes it's you" (*Ese es el mariconcito ... si sos vos*). Alex David Sánchez Álvarez turned and ran, and hid in a nearby building, where he wrote down the car's number plate and reported the incident to the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Alex David Sánchez Álvarez is very active in the LGBT community, working and volunteering for a number of LGBT and human rights organisations. This is the third time this year he has been threatened with a pistol.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- calling on the authorities to order an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats made against Alex David Sánchez Álvarez, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- urging them to take immediate steps to provide full and appropriate protection to Alex David Sánchez Álvarez in accordance with his wishes,
- reminding them that human rights defenders have a right to carry out their activities without any unfair restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 26 JULY 2011 TO:

Minister for Justice and Human

Rights

Ana Pineda
Ministra de Justicia y Derechos Humanos
Casa Presidencial
Boulevard Juan Pablo Segundo
Palacio José Cecilio del Valle
Tegucigalpa, M.D.C.
Honduras

Fax: +504 2290 5129

Salutation: Dear Minister/

Estimada Sra. Ministra

Attorney General

Sr. Luis Alberto Rubí
Fiscal General de la República
Lomas del Guijarro, Avenida
República Dominicana
Edificio Lomas Plaza II
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Fax: +504 2221 5667

Salutation: Dear Attorney

General/Sr. Fiscal

And copies to:

NGO

Centro de Prevención, Tratamiento y Rehabilitación de las Víctimas de Torturas y sus Familiares (CPTRT)
Colonia Palmira, Avenida República de Brasil, Casa #2340, Tegucigalpa
Honduras

E-mail: cptrt@cablecolor.hn

Fax: +504 2236 7273

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 12/11. Further information: [http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR 37/002/2011/en](http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR%2037/002/2011/en)

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

PROTECT LGBT ACTIVIST UNDER THREAT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In January 2011, Alex David Sánchez Álvarez was threatened and physically attacked by men using pistols twice in five days. These assaults happened near the offices of two human rights organisations that Alex David Sánchez Álvarez works for – *Colectivo Violeta* and *Centro de Prevención, Tratamiento y Rehabilitación de las Víctimas de la Tortura y sus Familiares* - CPTRT (Centre for the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims and their Families). Those responsible have not yet been identified.

Amnesty International is concerned about the environment faced by activists and other members of the LGBT community in Honduras. Attacks are rarely investigated thoroughly, and there is not enough protection for those who come forward to report these crimes. In a case documented by Amnesty International, in December 2009, the LGBT human rights activist Walter Trochez was murdered in Tegucigalpa. This happened nine days after he had escaped after being abducted by several masked men demanding the names and addresses of members of the movement opposing the June 2009 *coup d'état*. His captors apparently told him they had orders to kill him. The investigations into this case have not yet led to any indictments or convictions.

Amnesty International in its 2010 report on Honduras highlighted the sharp rise in the number of killings of transgender women following the June 2009 coup. Between 2003 and March 2009, human rights organizations had registered 17 cases of killings of transgender women. Between the end of June and December 2009, 12 such cases were reported by local human rights organizations. No data was available at the time about investigations into these killings.

In April 2010, Amnesty expressed its concern on the situation of LGBT people in Honduras in its Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review – Ninth Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council (AI Index: AMR 37/005/2010). The document is available at:
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AMR37/005/2010/en/79e58f10-220d-40ff-ab81-464b56aa439b/amr370052010en.pdf>

Further information on UA: 12/11 Index: AMR 37/005/2011 Issue Date: 14 June 2011

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

