

URGENT ACTION

JOURNALIST THREATENED

Journalist Mavis Ethel Cruz has received a telephone death threat at her home in Honduras. Her life is in danger.

Mavis Ethel Cruz is a journalist based in the northern city of San Pedro Sula, where she hosts the daily radio programme "News by the Hour" (*Noticias a la Hora*) on the station Radio Libertad. The programme deals with current affairs and themes of general interest; issues Mavis Ethel's programme had been covering prior to the telephoned threat included news and discussions on labour issues, corruption and police reform.

On 29 February, at about 1.50pm, soon after the programme ended, Mavis Ethel Cruz was at home when the phone rang. Her husband answered, and heard a female caller who said she was looking for Mavis Ethel. He asked who was calling, but the caller refused to say who she was, and instead said, "Tell Mavis that we'll break her, but first we'll begin with her son, because she is stirring up trouble there [on the radio programme]" (*Digale a doña Mavis que la vamos a quebrar, pero que primero vamos a comenzar por su hijo, porque tira riata ahí*).

Mavis Ethel Cruz reported the incident the next day, to the Public Prosecutor's office and the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman.

During the United Nations (UN) Universal Periodic Review of Honduras, in November 2010, the government made a commitment to fulfil their obligation to protect journalists, but has since done too little to ensure journalists can carry out their work free from threats and attacks.

Please write immediately in Spanish, English or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to order an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats against Mavis Ethel Cruz, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- Urging them to take immediate action to protect journalists, as they undertook to do in November 2010, during the UN Periodic Review..

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 APRIL 2012 TO:

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: Sr. Fiscal General/ Dear Attorney General

Minister for Justice and Human Rights

Ana Pineda
Ministra de Justicia y Derechos Humanos
Col. Lomas del Mayab,
Ave. República de Costa Rica,
Entre BAC-BAMER y BANHCAFE
Tegucigalpa MDC, Honduras
Email: info@sjdh.gob.hn

Salutation: Dear Minister/ Estimada Sra. Ministra

And copies to:

NGO

C-LIBRE

Colonia Palmira, Primera Calle, contiguo al Centro Cultural de España,
25 mts al norte del Redondel de los Artesanos, Tegucigalpa,
Honduras

Email: alertas@clibrehonduras.com

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Following the 28 June 2009 army coup that deposed President Zelaya,, soldiers closed and occupied media outlets attacked, threatened and intimidated media workers, particularly those investigating organized criminal activity, human rights violations and those speaking out about the coup. In 2010, 10 journalists were killed in Honduras. Among them was Nahúm Palacios, whom the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights had ordered the government to protect. In 2011, we issued two Urgent Actions on behalf of journalists at risk: Esdras Amado López (UA UA 4/11, AMR 37/001/2011 10 January 2011), and Arnulfo Aguilar (See UA 129/11, AMR 37/004/2011 6 May 2011).

Journalist Esdras Amado López, Director of Honduran TV channel Canal 36, was followed and threatened with a gun in the capital, Tegucigalpa, in January 2011, and also received death threats by text message,. (See UA UA 4/11, AMR 37/001/2011, 10 January 2011) Radio director Arnulfo Aguilar was attacked by eight to 10 armed men wearing balaclavas outside his home in San Pedro Sula, north-western Honduras. (See UA 129/11, AMR 37/004/2011, 6 May 2011)

In January 2012, human rights defender Itsmania Pineda Platero, a blogger, received death threats by phone and text message. (See UA: 22/12, AMR 37/001/2012, date). The same month, journalist Gilda Silvestrucci received telephone death threats. Both Itsmania Pineda Platero and Gilda Silvestrucci, as members of the group Periodistas por la Vida y la Libertad de Expresión (Journalists For Life and Freedom of Expression) had been campaigning for justice for Honduran journalists who had been threatened, attacked or killed because of their work, often exposing human rights violations.

Name: Mavis Ethel Cruz

Gender m/f: f

UA: 78/12 Index: AMR 37/004/2012 Issue Date: 8 March 2012

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