

# URGENT ACTION

## JOURNALIST THREATENED BY MILITARY OFFICER

**A Honduran journalist received a verbal death threat and has faced discrimination, believed to be in connection to his journalistic work. There is fear for his safety.**

On 24 January journalist **César Omar Silva Rosales** was denied access to the Honduran National Congress in Tegucigalpa, the capital, while trying to cover a session discussing the constitutional range of the Military Policy. César Omar Silva Rosales was told that his name was not in the list of authorized journalists and when he asked for an explanation, a high-ranking military official pointed his finger at him saying: "You cannot come in because I do not want you to and I am the one in charge here. Continue publishing videos of militaries eating dog and you will see... in a ditch, gagged and with yellow legs you will be found" (*No entras porque yo no quiero y yo soy el que manda aquí y seguí publicando vídeos de militares comiendo perro y veras... amordazado y con las patas amarillas en una cuneta te van a encontrar*).

A formal complaint was filed on 29 January with the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights (Fiscalía Especial de Derechos Humanos) but to date, César Omar Silva Rosales has not been called in to give a statement in order to begin the formal complaint process.

It is believed that the threat is directly connected to César Omar Silva Rosales's journalistic work. On 18 January a television programme he works for transmitted an investigative report exposing the shocking practices in training military members.

### **Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:**

- Urging the authorities to provide effective protection and expressing serious concern for the safety of César Omar Silva Rosales as a result of the threat received on 24 January;
- Calling on them to carry out a swift and thorough investigation into the threat and discrimination received by César Omar Silva Rosales on 24 January and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- Urging them to guarantee that the right to freedom of expression is respected and that journalists and media workers can carry out their legitimate work without a fear of reprisals.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 APRIL 2015 TO:**

Attorney General of the Republic  
Óscar Fernando Chinchilla  
Lomas del Guijarro  
Avenida República Dominicana  
Edificio Lomas Plaza II  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Fax: +504 2 221 5667  
Email: daniela.marine2@hotmail.com  
**Salutation: Dear Attorney  
General/Estimado Fiscal General**

Chief of the Armed Forces of Honduras  
Fredy Díaz Zelaya  
Comandancia General de las Fuerzas  
Armadas  
Colonia El Obelisco  
Comayagüela  
Honduras  
Fax: +504 2 238 0005  
Twitter: @FFAA\_Hn  
**Salutation: Dear Chief/ Estimado Jefe**

### **And copies to:**

Comité de Familiares de Detenidos-  
Desaparecidos en Honduras  
(COFADEH)  
Email: mail@cofadeh.org

**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

César Omar Silva Rosales is the Director of a well-known Honduran television programme and during his career as a journalist he has faced various intimidations and threatening events.

In February 2013 César Omar Silva Rosales and his cameraman were attacked by people believed to be members of a political party, suffering an injury and property damage while covering a report near the Presidential Palace.

In December 2009, César Omar Silva Rosales was kidnapped by armed men and taken to an unknown location. After being beaten, interrogated and threatened he was thrown out of a running car. He was forced to leave the country and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights granted him precautionary measures. However, these measures were never implemented and were suspended in 2014.

In August 2009 while covering a demonstration, César Omar Silva was beaten with batons in his head by police officers who also broke the camera he had been using to film the aggression.

In June 2009, César Omar Silva Rosales was detained in Guaimaca, Honduras while carrying out journalistic work. Luckily, villagers interceded with demonstrations for his immediate release.

In Honduras being a media worker can be a dangerous profession and the issue seems to be escalating. According to a local source in the past five years around 32 media workers have been killed, while many others have been intimidated in connection to their work. The authorities have not implemented an effective protection and investigative mechanism, creating impunity and fear among those working in the media.

Name: César Omar Silva Rosales

Gender m/f: m

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