

## **URGENT ACTION HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NETWORK**

**Public**

**HRD-AMR 1/98**

**AMR 37/05/98**

**Fear for safety of Ramón Custodio, human rights defender, 20 April 1998**

### **HONDURAS**

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Ramón Custodio.

At the beginning of April 1998, the head of the Armed Forces in Honduras, general Hung Pacheco, requested a court in the country to order the arrest of Ramon Custodio, president of the Comité para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos en Honduras (CODEH), Committee for the Defence of Human Rights in Honduras, and a member of the Human Rights Defenders Network. The general apparently accused Ramon Custodio of forging documents after the latter showed correspondence to the press in January this year in which the former head of the Armed Forces, general Humberto Regalado, ordered Hung Pacheco in 1988 to hand over a "disappeared" student to a counter-intelligence unit.

In February this year, a court had rejected a similar request by general Hung Pacheco. Given the present conditions in Honduras, where even government officials have been the subject of attacks, it causes grave concern that the head of the Armed Forces in Honduras should insist on putting obstacles to the work of a respected human rights defender.

Amnesty International believes that the increasing level of intimidation against human rights defenders is directly related to their efforts to expose serious past and present human rights violations in Honduras and pressurize the authorities into bringing the perpetrators to justice (see: Continued struggle against impunity; AMR 37/01/96, March 1996 and The beginning of the end of impunity; AMR 37/01/95, June 1995 as well as UA 97/97; AMR 37/01/97, 10 April 1997, and most recently UA 50/98, February 1998).

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send urgent appeals in Spanish or your own language,

- condemning the action by the head of the Armed Forces to reiterate an accusation already rejected by the courts;
- noting that this insistence could be interpreted as an attempt to intimidate human rights defenders in order to make them end their activities against impunity;
- urging the authorities in Honduras to take the necessary measures to put an end to the harassment and persecution against human rights defenders, and to guarantee that they can carry out their legitimate work;
- asking that the safety and personal integrity of Ramon Custodio and their colleagues are guaranteed;
- expressing support for the work of CODEH and everybody else working for the defence of human rights in Honduras.

**APPEALS TO:**

## 1) President

S..E. Carlos Roberto Flores  
 Presidente de la República de Honduras  
 Casa Presidencial, 6ª Avenida, 1ª Calle  
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
 Telegrams: Presidente, Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
 Faxes: + 504 2356949  
 Salutation: Sr. Presidente/Dear President

## 2) Directorate of Criminal Investigation

Dr. Wilfredo Alvarado  
 Director de la Dirección de Investigación Criminal (DIC)  
 7ª avenida, contigua Celocías Palermo  
 Comayaguala, Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
 Faxes: +504 2200554  
 Telegrams: Director de Investigación Criminal, Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
 Salutation: Sr. Director/Dear Director

## 3) President of the Supreme Court

Lic. Oscar Amando Avila  
 Presidente de la Corte Suprema de Justicia  
 Palacio de la Justicia, Boulevard José Cecilio del Valle, Tegucigalpa,  
 Honduras  
 Faxes: + 504 2336784  
 Telegrams: Presidente de la Corte Suprema, Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
 Salutation: Presidente de la Corte/  
 Dear President of the Supreme Court

## 4) Attorney General

Lic. Edmundo Orellana Mercado  
 Fiscal General. Fiscalía General de la República  
 Ministerio Público, Edificio Castillo Poujol  
 4º Avd, Colonia Palmira, Boulevard Morazán, Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
 Faxes: + 504 2 393687/394750  
 Telegrams: Fiscal General, Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
 Salutation: Sr. Fiscal General/Attorney General

## COPIES TO:

Human rights organization  
 CODEH. Apartado Postal 3189  
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
 Faxes: + 504 237 9238  
 e-mails: codeh@ns.hondunet.net

## Newspaper

Diario Tiempo. Lic. Manuel Gamero  
 Apartado Postal 450, San Pedro Sula, Honduras  
 Faxes: + 504 2310425/18

Newspaper

El Nuevo día. Lic. Amando Cerrato

Edificio San Miguel, N 359 calle Los Horcones, Barrio La Plazuela,

Apds 1052 2020 Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Faxes: + 504 2388990

and to diplomatic representatives of Honduras accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 May 1998.