



PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NOW

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TRANSFORMING PAIN INTO HOPE

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS
IN THE AMERICAS

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COMMITTEE OF RELATIVES OF THE DETAINED AND DISAPPEARED IN HONDURAS

Human rights defenders in the Americas play a vital role in exposing and combating human rights violations. Many have paid a high price for their courageous efforts to break cycles of injustice, discrimination and impunity. In the past few years, hundreds have been persecuted and attacked. Despite the lack of effective protection for themselves and their families and widespread impunity, they continue their struggle – transforming pain into hope.

The Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras, COFADEH) has worked tirelessly for human rights for the past 30 years. Since 2011, members of COFADEH have faced a rising number of death threats, harassment and attacks. Women members of COFADEH have also been threatened with sexual violence.

In the last few years, human rights defenders have been documenting human rights violations under increasingly hostile conditions in Honduras. They are at risk. Join us in urging the authorities to protect them promptly and effectively, to investigate attacks on COFADEH members, and to publicly recognize their vital role.

TAKE ACTION NOW

SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE AMERICAS

Image: COFADEH members and supporters unveil a monument to the memory of the disappeared at the site where the remains of four unknown people were exhumed in 1995, 30 August 2012. © COFADEH
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Dear President,

I am deeply concerned about the serious deterioration in the situation of human rights defenders in Honduras, particularly that of members of COFADEH.

Since 2011, the number and severity of incidents against COFADEH staff have intensified. At the start of 2012, Dina Meza received a series of threats of sexual violence. Bertha Oliva received intimidating messages. Nohemí Pérez was attacked as she arrived at the office.

I urge you to:

- fully comply with the precautionary protective measures ordered by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- guarantee a full investigation of all attacks and incidents of intimidation
- take all necessary measures to protect human rights defenders effectively
- publicly recognize the legitimacy and importance of their work.

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____

Country: _____

Porfirio Lobo Sosa
Presidente de la República
Casa Presidencial, Barrio Las Lomas
Boulevard Juan Pablo II
Tegucigalpa
Honduras

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Image: Photographs of victims of enforced disappearance on the walls of the COFADEH offices, Honduras, July 2009. © Amnesty International
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