

# URGENT ACTION

## AFRO-DESCENDANT RADIO STATION ATTACKED

**A radio station which promotes the rights of Afro-descendant communities in eastern Honduras, had all its equipment destroyed on 6 January. The radio station staff are in danger.**

The radio station, Faluma Binetu, is based in the Afro-descendant Garifuna community of Triunfo de la Cruz. It has been vocal in its opposition to the de facto authorities installed by a June 2009 coup, and has consistently broadcast in favour of the rights of the Garifuna people, who are at risk of having their land taken for large scale tourism development. On 6 January the radio station came under attack. Burglars broke into the station at 3am: they stole some equipment, and destroyed the rest in a fire which burned one of the two studios to the ground, and partly destroyed the other. Staff believe it will be at least two months before they can resume broadcasting.

In another incident, on 21 November, a man brandishing a machete came to the station, but was kept out by staff who barricaded the doors. This man challenged radio staff to come outside and talk to him personally about a recent broadcast on land rights.

Faluma Binetu is active in promoting the Garifuna community's rights to their land, and speaking out against the way business interests have taken over community lands for commercial projects such as hotels and beach resorts. It provides the community with local and national news, from non-state sources. It also gave use of its broadcasting frequency to another independent radio station, Radio Globo, whose broadcasts have been frequently interrupted since the coup. On account of previous harassment, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) requested in June 2005 that the government provide the community leaders of Triunfo de la Cruz with protection.

### PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- urging the authorities take immediate steps to provide all necessary protection to the staff at Radio Faluma Binetu in accordance with their wishes;
- calling on them to guarantee an independent, thorough and impartial investigation is conducted into the 6 January attack on Faluma Binetu, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 FEBRUARY 2010 TO:

#### De-facto President

Roberto Micheletti  
Casa Presidencial  
Boulevard Juan Pablo Segundo  
Palacio José Cecilio del Valle  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Fax: +504 239 3298  
(may not be reliable, please send appeals by post as well)

Salutation: **Dear Mr Micheletti/  
Sr. Micheletti**

#### Attorney General

Sr. Luis Alberto Rubí  
Fiscal General de la República  
Lomas del Guijarro, Avenida República  
Dominicana  
Edificio Lomas Plaza II  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Fax: +504 221 5667

(may not be reliable, please send appeals by post as well)  
Salutation: **Dear Attorney General/  
Estimado Sr. Fiscal General**

#### **And copies to:**

NGO promoting Garifuna interests  
Organización Fraternal Negra  
Hondureña, OFRANEH  
Av 14 julio, calle 19, Contiguo Vivero  
Flor Tropical, Barrio Alvarado, La Ceiba,  
Honduras

email: [garifuna@ofraneh.org](mailto:garifuna@ofraneh.org)  
[ofraneh@yahoo.com](mailto:ofraneh@yahoo.com)

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Faluma Binetu has been broadcasting for over 10 years in the community of Triunfo de La Cruz. It broadcasts in the local Garifuna language, and its main objective is to strengthen Garifuna culture. It also broadcasts on a variety of community issues, including the land ownership problems of the Garifuna community. The community of Triunfo de la Cruz is suffering many internal conflicts, as the people are divided over the land-ownership issue, with some favouring and others strongly opposed to new development.

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