

URGENT ACTION

RADIO STATION DIRECTOR ATTACKED

Radio director Arnulfo Aguilar was attacked by eight to ten armed men wearing balaclavas outside his home in San Pedro Sula, north-western Honduras. Amnesty International believes that he was targeted because he publicly criticized the armed forces and that his life is at risk.

On 27 April 2011, at 23:35pm, **Arnulfo Aguilar**, director of Radio Uno, arrived at his house after presenting a radio show. He saw eight to ten individuals, some of them masked and armed, making hand-signals to each other. The men then ran towards him as he was opening the gate to the compound in which his house is situated. As they approached, Arnulfo Aguilar heard one of the men say to another, 'there he is, that son of a bitch' ["allí está ese hijo de puta"]

The attackers tried to block Arnulfo Aguilar's path to the house, but he managed to enter the front door and lock himself inside. The attackers surrounded his house and waited for him. Arnulfo immediately phoned the police to ask for assistance, but a patrol unit only arrived on the scene over an hour later, by which time the individuals had left. Arnulfo Aguilar also called the Committee of Relatives of the Disappeared in Honduras (Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras) a prominent Honduran human rights organization, who then also tried to contact senior police officials including the Minister of Security, Oscar Alvarez, but were unable to get a response.

Arnulfo Aguilar had returned home after presenting an evening radio show in which a Wikileaks cable was mentioned that implicated the Honduran Armed Forces in arms smuggling activities.

In the days following the attack, there have been reports that shots have been fired in the vicinity of Arnulfo Aguilar's house. He has not felt able to return to his home since the attack, as there are no security measures in place that would guarantee his safety.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Urging that the authorities take immediate steps to fully provide appropriate protection to Arnulfo Aguilar in accordance with his wishes.
- Calling for an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the attack on Arnulfo Aguilar, demanding that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 17 JUNE 2011 TO:

Minister for Justice and Human Rights

Ana Pineda
Ministra de Justicia y Derechos Humanos
Casa Presidencial
Boulevard Juan Pablo Segundo
Palacio José Cecilio del Valle
Tegucigalpa, M.D.C.
Honduras
Fax: +504 2290 5129

Salutation: Estimada Sra. Ministra

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

Salutation: Dear Attorney General

And copies to:

Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras (COFADEH)
Barrio La Plazuela, Avenida Cervantes
Casa No. 1301
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Fax: +504 220 5280

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

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Following the coup d'etat on 28 June 2009, there were closures and occupation of media outlets by military personnel, media workers were physically attacked and subjected to threats and intimidation, particularly those investigating organized criminal activity, human rights violations and those speaking out about the coup d'etat. In 2010, ten journalists were killed in Honduras. Among those killed, was Nahúm Palacios, who had been granted precautionary measures by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Since the coup d'etat, media workers at Radio Uno have reported several threats and attacks to the authorities. Radio Uno has played a role in informing the public about human rights violations and the role of the armed forces. The authorities have not contacted Arnulfo Aguilar to discuss concerns about the security of Radio Uno staff.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights expressed concern about the security of the staff at Radio Uno in October 2009 and requested information about the situation from the authorities.

For more information on Honduras see here:

Honduras: Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review: Ninth session of the UPR working group of the Human Rights Council, November-December 2010: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR37/005/2010/en>

Honduras: Recommendations to the new Honduran government following the coup of June 2009: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR37/003/2010/en>

Honduras: Human rights crisis threatens as repression increases: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR37/004/2009/en>

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