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## **Honduras: Security Forces must respect human rights**

As further demonstrations by supporters of ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya are expected to take place later today, Amnesty International is urging the security forces to “refrain from using excessive force against protesters and ensure the safety of those participating in the demonstrations.”

“We are concerned for the safety of protesters,” said Kerrie Howard, Americas Deputy Director at Amnesty International.

“Failure to allow demonstrators to express their opinions peacefully would only fuel an already fragile situation, said Kerrie Howard.

Amnesty International’s call to the security forces comes after supporters of President Zelaya clashed with the military in the context of demonstrations that took place on Monday night. According to media reports, several protesters were injured.

A number of trade unions across Honduras have announced an indefinite strike commencing on Tuesday in support of the ousted President.

Zelaya has announced he will return to Honduras on Thursday. Jose Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States, has offered to accompany him.

Political turmoil in the Central American country commenced after President Zelaya was detained by the military and forcibly exiled from the country on Sunday. Roberto Micheletti, Congress speaker, has been sworn in as "Interim President".