

# URGENT ACTION

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER JOURNALIST THREATENED

**Honduran journalist Héctor Longino Becerra, a human rights defender, has been phoned by a man who threatened to murder him and his family.**

**Héctor Longino Becerra**, executive director of the NGO Freedom of Expression Committee (*Comité por la Libre Expresión, C-Libre*), was telephoned three times in the evening of 20 April. He could not understand what the caller said in the first two calls, and hung up. When his phone rang for a third time, at around 9.40 pm, he recorded the conversation. He could hear the voice of a woman in the background and then a man who said, "I lead a campaign to kill you, your mum, your dad, your grandparents, your aunts and uncles, your friends and your friends' friends. If they are dead, I will revive them and kill them again, did you hear me?" (*tengo una campaña para matarle a vos, a tu mamá, a tu papa, a tus abuelos, a tus tíos, a tus amigos y a los amigos de tus amigos. Si están muertos los revivo y los vuelvo a matar, ¿oíste?*).

C-Libre is a coalition of journalists and civil society members created to promote and defend freedom of expression and the right of access to information in Honduras. C-Libre supports Conexihon.info, an independent digital media site, which has been investigating and reporting cases of corruption, land conflict, mining issues, and the serious situation of journalists in Honduras. In recent weeks, members of C-Libre have been receiving numerous phone calls from unknown mobile numbers. The e-mail address of one of their correspondents has been hacked and they believe that mobile phones of journalists working with C-Libre have been tapped.

### Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling for an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats made against Héctor Longino Becerra and his family, as well as into acts of harassment against other members and journalists working with C-Libre and Conexihon.info, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- Urging the authorities to take immediate steps to fully provide appropriate protection to Héctor Longino Becerra, his family, as well as other members and journalists working with C-Libre and Conexihon.info in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Reminding them that States have the responsibility to protect human rights defenders and create the conditions necessary to ensure that they can carry out their legitimate activities without any unfair restrictions or fear of reprisals, as established in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 13 JUNE 2013 TO:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 2221 5667  
**Salutation: Señor Fiscal General/ Dear  
 Attorney General**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
Minister of Interior

Sr. \_\_\_\_\_ Arturo Corrales  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Secretaría de Estado en el  
 Despacho de Seguridad  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plantel Casamata, subida al  
 Picacho  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax: +504 2220 1756  
**Salutation: Señor Ministro del Interior /  
 Dear Minister of Interior**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**And copies to:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
C-Libre  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comité por la Libre Expresión  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Colonia Palmira, Primera Calle,  
 contiguo al Centro Cultural de España, 25  
 mts al norte del Redondel de los Artesanos  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax: +504 2237 9966  
 Email: alertas@clibrehonduras.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

Amnesty International issued an open letter to the Honduran government in May 2012, expressing deep concern at the sharp increase in attacks and threats against journalists and human rights defenders in Honduras, and urging the authorities to take urgent steps to address the situation. The organization has not yet received a reply.

In February 2012, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders said, following a visit to Honduras, that human rights defenders were still suffering death threats, attacks, harassment and stigmatization, and urged the authorities to urgently establish a protection programme for defenders. The Rapporteur identified certain groups of defenders in Honduras, including journalists, as being particularly at risk.

Journalists defending human rights play a critical role in exposing human rights violations that otherwise would have remained shrouded in secrecy. In Honduras, Amnesty International has documented an increase in the number of death threats and attacks against journalists and bloggers, as affirmed in the regional report Transforming Pain into Hope – Human Rights Defenders in the Americas, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR01/006/2012/en>

Name: Héctor Longuino Becerra

Gender m/f: m

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