

URGENT ACTION

HONDURAN RADIO JOURNALIST FEARS FOR HIS LIFE

Luis Galdámez, a male journalist freelancing for an independent radio station in Honduras, has been receiving death threats as a result of his broadcasting work and comments in support of the country's ousted president, Manuel Zelaya.

Luis Galdámez, who presents a daily programme, "*Tras La Verdad*" (Behind the Truth) on Radio Globo, a radio station with national coverage, has received a number of death threats via SMS (text) messages and anonymous calls to his mobile phone. The threats against him and his family started soon after Luis Galdámez used his radio programme to criticise the *de facto* authorities. One SMS threat said: "Perro ya te tenemos esta vez no te escapás... Estas advertido, ya conocemos donde vivís y sabemos donde estudian tus hijos, hijo de puta te tenemos bien vigilado a vos y tu familia, si no te callas, te matamos basura" (We've got you now, this time you won't get away...you have been warned. We know where you live and we know where your sons go to school, son of a bitch, we are watching you and your whole family, if you don't keep quiet we will kill you, you piece of shit.)

On 21 September, Luis Galdámez broadcast from the Brazilian embassy in Tegucigalpa, as Manuel Zelaya had just arrived there after being out of the country since being forced from office. Since 21 September, Luis Galdámez has remained inside the embassy, as he fears for his life if he leaves due to the threats he has received. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), has called on the Honduran authorities to protect Luis Galdámez. However, Luis Galdámez has told Amnesty International that the authorities have not yet taken any action to offer him protection.

Since President Zelaya was ousted on 28 June, there have been a number of attacks on media workers. An explosive device was thrown at the office of HRN, a radio station on 5 November, injuring two people and damaging broadcasting equipment. On 6 November, the director of TV channel Canal 36 alleged that the cutting of a fibre optic cable was part of an attempt by the authorities to impede their ability to broadcast. To Amnesty International's knowledge no one has been held to account for these attacks.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the *de facto* authorities to act immediately to give all necessary protection to Luis Galdámez, in accordance with his wishes;
- Calling for an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats against Luis Galdámez, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 DECEMBER 2009 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

And copies to:

Local NGO

Comité por la Libre Expresión (C-Libre)
Colonia Rubén Darío,
Calle Palermo, casa No. 2244B
Tegucigalpa
Honduras

Fax: + 504 239 8246

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

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The democratically elected president of Honduras, José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, was deposed on 28 June by a military-backed group of politicians led by Roberto Micheletti, the head of Congress. There has been widespread unrest in the country since then, with frequent clashes between the police and army and civilian protestors. According to local sources, at least seven people have died in unclear circumstances since 28 June.

Furthermore, media workers have been under increased pressure in the months since Roberto Micheletti seized power. Many radio programmes have been taken off air and two media stations shut down by the *de facto* authorities, including Radio Globo. This station was raided by police officials and their broadcasting equipment confiscated on 28 June. Roberto Micheletti issued a decree on 26 September allowing newspapers and broadcasters to be closed down if they "insult public officials." Following international pressure the decree was later repealed, but threats and attacks against media workers and stations continue. Radio Globo was given leave to broadcast again on 19 October.

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