

URGENT ACTION

HONDURAN COMMUNITY LEADER ABDUCTED

On 30 August José Reynaldo Cruz Palma, a Honduran community leader, was abducted in San Pedro Sula, northern Honduras by two unknown individuals. To date, his whereabouts are unknown. Amnesty International believes his life is at risk.

On 30 August at 2.30pm, **José Reynaldo Cruz Palma** and his wife were travelling on a minibus in San Pedro Sula when the vehicle was stopped by a grey pick-up truck with tinted windows, which had been following them throughout their journey. Two men wearing balaclavas boarded the minibus and took the keys to the minibus from the driver. They then ordered Cruz Palma's wife to get off the bus, which she did. They then grabbed José Reynaldo Cruz Palma, forcing him out of the bus, where they searched him. The men did not identify themselves or give any reason for their actions.

When his wife asked why they were doing this to him, one of the men pointed a gun at her face and released the safety catch, as if ready to shoot her, saying "it's nothing to do with you, it's about him" ("*con vos no es, es con el*"). After searching José Reynaldo Cruz Palma, the two men handcuffed him and forced him into the pick-up truck. As they did this, the men covered José Reynaldo Cruz Palma's face with a hood.

At approximately 3.00pm his wife went to the Primera Estación Police Station to report the crime. The police officers made her wait for one hour and only took her complaint at 4.00pm when other members of the community went there to support her. The whereabouts of José Reynaldo Cruz Palma remain unknown and the authorities have yet to take action to establish his whereabouts.

José Reynaldo Cruz Palma is well known in the community for his work on abuses committed by the police against local youths. He did a television interview in July expressing his concerns about violence in his local community and on 27 August at a public event held in the community he also stood up to express his concerns about police abuses. A police officer who was there stood up and said to him, "You have to shut up because we reckon you're a gang leader" ("*vos te debés callar porque te consideramos jefe de la mara*").

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Call on the authorities to do everything necessary to establish the whereabouts of José Reynaldo Cruz Palma;
- Urge them to launch a full, impartial and independent investigation into the abduction of José Reynaldo Cruz Palma, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 8 NOVEMBER 2011 TO:

Attorney General

Sr. Luis Alberto Rubí
Fiscal General de la República
Lomas del Guijarro, Avenida República
Dominicana, Edificio Lomas Plaza II
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
E-mail: lrubi@mp.hn
Fax: +504 2221 5667
Salutation: Sr. Fiscal General/ Dear Attorney General

Minister of Interior

Sr. Pompeyo Bonilla
Secretaría de Estado en el Despacho de
Seguridad, Plantel Casamata, subida al
Picacho, Tegucigalpa, M.D.C, Honduras
Fax: +504 2220 1756
Salutation: Dear Minister / Estimado Sr.Ministro

And copies to:

Comité de Familiares de Detenidos
Desaparecidos en Honduras
(COFADEH)
Barrio La Plazuela, Avenida Cervantes
Casa no.1301
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Fax: +504 2220 5280

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

