



March 30, 2011

Open letter to the distinguished members of the international diplomatic corps and international organizations with a presence or focus on Honduras

Please receive cordial greetings from organizations seeking to promote human rights in Honduras.

We are writing to express our support for the work currently being carried out on the part of the Commission of Truth in Honduras, which was formed in June 2010, and to request that you insist on the protection of the staff of the Commission as well as all victims, families and witnesses intending to share their testimony with the Commission.

As you know, the Commission of Truth (CDV) is fulfilling the functions and objectives conferred upon it by the Human Rights Platform of Honduras. The CDV has begun the process of collecting denunciations and testimonies from victims and/or family members who have suffered human rights violations throughout the country. These testimonies will form the foundation of the Human Rights Report issued by the Commission. The CDV has contracted a multidisciplinary team of professionals and administrative personnel to carry out these functions based in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa as well as mobile investigation teams which will be traveling in different regions of the country during the next months.

We understand that the Commission has provided you with information regarding this work so that your Organization, Embassy or Government has prior knowledge of the humanitarian, technical and professional work that the Commission is carrying out in case its teams should suffer and attack or repression on the part of State actors or others whose actions are tolerated by the State. In the event of an attack or repression against these human rights defenders, we will be contacting international Organizations, Embassies and Governments to support requests for protection on the part of the Commission of Truth. We underscore that the victims and/or their family members have the legitimate and universally recognized right to present their cases and to seek the truth without suffering threats, harassment or repression in any form.

We would like to express our recognition and support for the efforts on the part of some governments and international organizations to insist that the State of Honduras fulfill its

international human rights commitments and we ask that these efforts be continued. In particular we refer to the conclusions and recommendations established in the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council, UN Treaties, and the decisions/rulings of the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of the Organization of American States issued before, during and after the coup d'état in Honduras. Fulfillment of these responsibilities is indispensible for the achievement of any true national reconciliation which requires that civil society be able to see in the short and medium term, the existence of conditions necessary for establishing truth, justice and reparation for the serious and systematic violation of human rights.

Sincerely,

<u>Canada</u>

Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network - CanadaCanadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace CanadaCanadian Union of Public EmployeesCoDevelopment CanadaCommon Frontiers-CanadaHorizons of FriendshipMaquila Solidarity NetworkMiningWatch CanadaProject Accompagnement Québec-GuatemalaPublic Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC)Rights Action – CanadaThe Social Justice Committee of MontrealThe United Church of Canada

Europe

Collettivo Italia Centro America CICA Delegación Alemana-Austriaca a Honduras Guatemala Solidarität Österreich, Vienna, Austria Informationsgruppe Lateinamerika (IGLA), Vienna, Austria Oficina Ecumenica por la Paz y la Justicia, Munich, Alemania Movimiento Internacional de Reconciliación, Austria Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) Forum, England ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria Oscar Romero Haus Bonn e.V. Plataforma de Solidaridad con Chiapas de Madrid Queeres Bündnis Walter Tróchez, Berlín/Alemania Unterstueztergruppe, Alemania

Latin America Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Premio Nobel de la Paz, Presidente de SERPAJ América Latina, Comisión de laVerdad en Honduras CEIBA Guatemala Centro Memorial Martin Luther King, Cuba COMISEDE, Peru Coordinadora Nacional por la Integración y la Soberanía Energética (CONISE) Jubileu Sul Brasil La Confederación Sindical de Trabajadores/as de las Américas (CSA) Marea Creciente, México Otros Mundos, Chiapas Red Jubileo Sur/Américas Vocés Ecológicas, Panamá SERPAJ América Latina Republica Dominicana Asociación Bibliotecarios Dominicana Asociación de Parceleros de Jima Club don Justo Colectivo Vecinos la Piedad Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos **FENTICOMMC** Foro Social Alternativo Frente Agropecuario PRD Frente Amplio por la Dignidad Nacional Fuerza Juvenil Dominicana Fuerza de la Revolución Fuerza Unitario de Trabajadores UASD FUT UASD

Grupo Provincial por el Desarrollo Justicia Global Juventud Caribe J.V. Grito de Capotillo MIUCA Acción por el Cambio MOCUGRECA Movimiento Campesino Comunidades Unidas Movimiento Campesino Comunidades Unidas Movimiento de Trabajadores Independientes MTI Movimiento Unión Popular Independiente Mujeres al Poder Partido Boschista Dominicano Partido Comunista Dominicano Red URB Popular UPROBRISA-COMPA

Foro Reflexión

<u>United States</u> American Friends Service Committee, Project Voice - New England Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Alliance for Global Justice Bail Out the People Movement **Brooklyn For Peace** Campaign for Labor Rights Casa Morazan **Chicago-Cinquera Sister Cities** Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America Center for Constitutional Rights Centro Presente Boston Comité de Refugiados de El Salvador Disciples Justice Action Network Ecumenical Committee of English Speaking Church Personnel, Nicaragua (CEPRHI) Fellowship of Reconciliation USA Friends of Chilama (US-ES Sister Cities) Friendship Office of the Americas Forging Alliances South and North (ForAL) Hondurans for Democracy Honduras USA Resistencia **Immigrants Worker Center** Jobs with Justice MA Latin America/Caribbean Solidarity Committee of the International Action Center Latin America Solidarity Committee--Milwaukee Latin America Task Force of Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice La Voz de los de Abajo Latin America/Caribbean Committee of the Loreto Community. Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns May 1st Coalition for Worker & Immigrant Rights National Lawyers Guild Task Force on the Americas Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA) New Sanctuary Movement, Boston Nicaragua Center for Community Action (NICCA) Nicaragua Network Nicaragua - United States Friendship Office of the Americas Our Developing World Pax Christi USA-National Catholic Peace Movement) Peoples Video Network Portland Central America Solidarity Committee Power In Community Alliances (PICA) Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Provecto Hondureño de MA Red Nacional Ciudades Hermanas Estados Unidos - El Salvador **Rights Action – USA** Romero Interfaith Center, Philadelphia, PA Saint Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church, PA Seattle-Honduras Solidarity Committee and Seattle CISPES Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Institute Justice Team SOA Watch

School of the Americas Watch West Social Justice Commission, Dominican Friars, Central Province, USA Southern California Immigration Coalition (SCIC) Southern Province of Dominican Friars, USA St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America STITCH United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries, Colombia Liaison USLEAP Witness for Peace Women's Fight-Back Network 8th Day Center for Justice