

Tegucigalpa, MDC.,
April 21, 2015

Friends:

COFADEH writes to express our deep concern regarding declarations made by members of the government of Honduras which have been widely disseminated in the national media, denouncing in a defamatory manner, human rights organizations which are contributing information to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Honduras which will take place on May 8, 2015 before the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. See the official government press release on the webpage of the office of the President:

<http://www.presidencia.gob.hn/?p=5321>

Our concern is based on the following considerations:

1. It is well know that this type of declaration issued by a government increases the vulnerability of organizations.
2. These declarations stigmatize and criminalize human rights defenders.
3. These declarations violate freedom of expression and the right to defend human rights.
4. These declarations ignore the UPR process in which the contribution of civil society organizations is expected and has its proper place in the process.

We share the attached communication from the UPR Platform, comprised of a significant number of important organizations representing civil society.

For all of these reasons, (and based on the European Union Directives for the protection of human rights defenders) we request that you issue expressions of concern to the appropriate Honduran authorities, requesting that they:

- ❖ Emit a public declaration in which they express their support and recognition of the legitimate work of human rights organizations.
- ❖ Assume effective measures to protect the security of all human rights defenders.

Please contact us if you have questions or observations.

Respectfully,



BERTHA OLIVA DE NATIVI
Coordinadora General