

Via fax: 011 - 504 235 7700 <b>José Manuel Zelaya Rosales</b> Presidente de la República de Honduras	Via fax: 011 504 220 4352 <b>Alvaro Romero</b> Ministro de Seguridad Publica
Via fax: 011 504 221 5667 <b>Leonidas Rosa Bautista</b> Fiscal General del Estado	

December 23, 2006

Dear Sirs:

We are concerned for the safety of **Carlos Hernandez** and other members of the human rights organization Association for a More Just Society (ASJ). The government is making very slow progress in providing them with protection.

Here are some of the threats they've received over the past several months:

August 25: threatening calls made to the ASJ office

August 29: ASJ lawyer **Dionisio Díaz García** and ASJ project director **Dina Meza** were followed by or watched from various cars without number plates close to the ASJ office.

September 27-28: The ASJ and other Honduran non-governmental organizations (NGOs) reported the threats and harassment of ASJ members to President Zelaya and to the Attorney General

October-November: ASJ and other NGOs reported the threats to the Attorney General's Special Human Rights Office and the National Human Rights Commission.

December 4: Dionisio Díaz García was shot dead by a male passenger on a motorbike as he drove to the Supreme Court in Tegucigalpa

December 7: a man on a motorbike followed Carlos Hernandez until he escaped pursuit after two hours

December 13: two men on a motorbike rode through Carlos Hernandez's neighborhood, asking for his address

December 18: a man on a motorbike parked behind Carlos Hernandez's house and remained until neighbors became suspicious.

ASJ investigative journalists **Claudia Mendoza, Robert Marin García and Rosa Morazan** have also been threatened over the past several months and again recently. On December 15, sources linked to military intelligence told Robert Marin García of a plan by private security firms to assassinate ASJ members this month. The source warned that ASJ journalists should be careful because "you're making them want to kill you" and implied that they should leave the country for their own safety.

Based on the information stated above, we strongly urge you to

- provide immediate and effective protection for all ASJ members and their families, especially for Carlos Hernández;
- order a thorough and independent investigation into the murder of Dionisio Díaz García and the threats against other members of the ASJ, and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

Cc: Ambassador Charles A. Ford ~ via fax  
 U.S. Ambassador Norman Garcia Paz ~ via fax  
 Milton Jimenez Puerto, Foreign Minister ~ via fax  
 Asociacion para una Sociedad más Justa ~ via U.S. mail  
 Marcos Mandojana, Desk Officer for Honduras ~ via fax  
 Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax

UA329/06 Honduras

**The following people hereby urge that you take action on this matter as indicated in this letter:**