

IRTF

InterReligious Task Force on Central America

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Maria Otero

Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs
US Department of State
Washington, DC

March 3, 2010

Dear Ms. Otero:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force on Central American, are gravely concerned with the deteriorating human rights situation in Honduras. On February 24, **Claudia Larisa Brizuela** was assassinated in her home in San Pedro Sula, Cortés Department, in front of her two young children. Claudia was an activist and the daughter of **Pedro Brizuela**, Radio Uno host and prominent member of the resistance movement. Since the coup d'etat that overthrew the democratically-elected president on June 28, 2009, several Radio Uno hosts, including Brizuela, have been targeted with threats because of their consistent denunciation of the abuses of the post-coup governments. It is clear that Claudia's assassination was meant to intimidate not only the National People's Resistance Front but also the independent media.

In recent weeks, other resistance leaders have been attacked and murdered. There have been over 254 documented human rights violations since Porfirio Lobo took power in late January. This represents an ongoing policy of state terrorism and aggression that began after the coup d'etat last June.

We are saddened that the United States is one of just a few governments that has officially recognized Lobo's administration; it is not recognized by the United Nations, the Organization of American States, or most of Latin America. By this stance the United States is dramatically impeding progress towards enforcement of human rights and attempting to legitimize the abuses of the current government of Honduras.

The United States must immediately and strongly condemn the Lobo administration for its continued human rights violations and call for the protection of human rights defenders and media workers in Honduras, while cutting military aid to the country. We urge the U.S. to reject the Lobo administration's proposed Truth Commission, and push for an independent truth process that would thoroughly investigate the human rights violations and other crimes committed under the interim government of Roberto Micheletti, as well as the current administration, instead of simply whitewashing the coup in Honduras.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

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US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
US Representatives Bocchieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

CISPES Honduras

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