

Blanca Sarahí Izaguirre Lozano National Commissioner for Human Rights of Honduras	Lica. Karla Eugenia Cueva Aguilar Secretary for Human Rights of Honduras
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September 23, 2021

Dear Commissioner Izaguirre and Secretary Cueva:

We are concerned about incidents of intimidation against LGTBI (LGBT) rights defender **Donny Reyes**, the director of CIPRODEH (Center for Investigation and Promotion of Human Rights) and active member of the Arcoiris (Rainbow) Association. Donny Reyes and other members of Arcoiris have been suffering a series of attacks for more than two years, which have intensified as organizations of the LGTBI community demand the right to marriage and the approval of the Comprehensive Law for the rights of the LGTBI community.

In Tegucigalpa on August 19, when Donny Reyes was leaving the offices of SOMOS-CDC (Center for Development and Cooperation of the LGTBI Community), he noticed a security guard trying to video record him in a secretive way. When Donny Reyes confronted the security guard and asked him what he was doing, the guard hid his mobile device. This presents concern because SOMOS-CDC has been subject to homophobic actions by private security guards who are stationed there, paid by local residents who don't want the LGTBI organization in the Payaquí neighborhood.

On August 21, Donny Reyes was assaulted by unknown persons who took his personal documents, those of his partner, and also other work belongings. This attack occurred just one day after he filed an Appeal for Amparo against the State of Honduras for denying him the right to marriage, before the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice. Donny Reyes denounced this assault (and the surveillance by the security guard two days prior) to the Police Investigations Directorate (DPI).

We believe that these acts of intimidation against Donny Reyes are occurring because of his work in promoting equal rights for the LGTBI community in Honduras. We strongly urge that you:

- investigate who is ordering the surveillance of staff and visitors to the SOMOS-CDC office and what they are doing with the surveillance recordings
- investigate the assault on Donny Reyes, publish the results, and bring the perpetrators to justice
- expedite to the National Protection Mechanism any requests for protection measures being solicited by Donny Reyes
- ensure the right of LGTBI defenders to carry out their work for justice in safety, under protection of the law, and without the threat of reprisal

Sincerely,



Brian J. Stefan Szittai and



Christine Stonebraker-Martinez

copies: Oscar Chinchilla Banegas, Attorney General of Honduras ~ via email
Luis Suazo Barahona, Ambassador of Honduras to the US ~ via email and US mail
Joel Hernández García, Rapporteur for Honduras, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email and US mail
Flávia Piovesan, Rapporteur on the Rights of LGTBI Persons, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email and US mail
Isabel Albaladejo Escribano, Representative to Honduras of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OACNUDH) ~ via email
SOMOS-CDC: Centro para el Desarrollo y la Cooperación LGTBI ~ via email
US Embassy in Honduras: Colleen Hoey, Chargé d'Affaires; Nate Rettenmayer, Political Officer; Ariel Jahner, Human Rights Officer ~ via email
US State Department: Molly Runyon, Honduras Desk Officer ~ via email
US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Beatty, Gibbs, González, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Ryan ~ via email

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