

URGENT ACTION

DEATH THREAT AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

An environmental journalist has received a death threat after publicly condemning the environmental impacts of opencast mining and illegal logging in Honduras.

Environmental activist and journalist **Juana Dolores Valenzuela** received an email death threat on 27 November. The subject line of the email read "big mouth" (*barbara lengona*), and the message read: "because of your big mouth we're going to kill you one of these days, when are you going to learn some respect...old woman who never learned...you reached old age, bitch with that big mouth your coffin won't be big enough for your tongue" (*por la lengua te vamos a matar un dia de estos, cuando vas a aprender a respetar vieja que nunca aprendiste ..llegaste a vieja, hija de la gran puta con la lengua que no te va a ajustar el ataud para tu lengua*).

That morning, Dolores Valenzuela had appeared on a TV program on state broadcaster Canal 8, on the subject of opencast metal-ore mining, along with the president of the Honduran Congress's Mining Commission. She then traveled to the Radio Católica studios, where she took part in a program on various environmental issues, including opencast metal-ore mining, illegal logging, and hydroelectric dams. During the show she mentioned the names of several people she said were responsible for environmental destruction.

When Dolores Valenzuela returned home at 4pm, she found the email, which had been sent at about 2:30pm. She has reported the death threat to the authorities.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to order an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the threat to kill Juana Dolores Valenzuela, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- Urging them to take immediate steps to provide appropriate protection to Juana Dolores Valenzuela, in accordance with her wishes.
- Reminding them that human rights defenders have a right to carry out their activities without any unfair restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 JANUARY 2013 TO:

Attorney General

Sr. Luis Alberto Rubí
Fiscal General de la República
Lomas del Guijarro, Avenida República
Dominicana, Edificio Lomas Plaza II
Tegucigalpa, HONDURAS
Fax: 011 504 2221 5667
Salutation: Sr. Fiscal General/Dear
Attorney General

Minister of Interior

Sr. Pompeyo Bonilla
Secretaría de Estado en el Despacho de
Seguridad, Plantel Casamata, subida al
Picacho,
Tegucigalpa, HONDURAS
Fax: 011 504 2220 1756
Salutation: Dear Minister/Estimado Sr.
Ministro

And copies to:

NGO

Centro Hondureño de Promoción para el
Desarrollo Comunitario (CEHPRODEC)
(Honduran Centre for the Promotion of
Community Development)
Colonia 15 de Septiembre, Avenida
Independencia,
Calle Clemente Marroquin Rojas, casa
1902,
Comayagua
HONDURAS

Also send copies to:

Ambassador Jorge Ramón Hernández Alcerro
Embassy of Honduras
3007 Tilden St. NW Suite 4M
Washington DC 20008

Tel: 1 202 966 7702; 1 202 966 2604 | Fax: 1 202 966 9751 | Email: dtrejo@hondurasemb.org; embassy@hondurasemb.org

Please check with the AIUSA Urgent Action office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

DEATH THREAT AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders said in February 2012, after visiting Honduras, that human rights defenders there were still suffering death threats, attacks, harassment and stigmatization, and urged the authorities to establish urgently a protection programme for defenders.

Amnesty International issued an open letter to the Honduran government in May 2012, expressing deep concern at the sharp increase in attacks and threats against journalists and human rights defenders in Honduras, and urging the authorities to take urgent steps to address the situation. The organization has not yet received a reply.

Juana Valenzuela is an environmental activist and journalist. She writes columns on environmental issues for digital human rights news site Revistazo.com and environmental news site Periodicoecovida.com

Name: Juana Dolores Valenzuela (f)

Issues: Death threat, Harassment, Environmental activist

UA: 342/12

Issue Date: 30 November 2012

Country: Honduras