

URGENT ACTION

PROTECTION GROUP IN HONDURAS THREATENED

Two European volunteers for an international protection project based in the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa, were threatened in April. The volunteers – one French and one British – protect individuals and members of Honduran human rights organizations at risk of attack by accompanying them. The safety of the volunteers is now at risk.

On 26 April, one volunteer for the **Honduras Accompaniment Project (Proyecto de Acompañamiento en Honduras – PROAH)** received a threat via a text message saying "Shits, once we put a bullet in your head you're going to keep quiet" ("Mierdas hasta que les metamos un plomazo en la cabeza se van a quedar quietos"). The same threat was sent to individuals PROAH has accompanied in recent months.

Previously, on 22 April, another volunteer for PROAH had received a similar threat via text message, which named people accompanied by PROAH, and said "...whoever we start with...the end result will be the same" ("por quien empezamos ...El fin no altera el producto"). This threat was also sent by text to individuals accompanied by PROAH. The threats received by PROAH were reported to the Honduran authorities on 30 April.

Both threats contained the sign-off "CAM", which stands for Comando Álvarez Martínez, a pseudonym which has previously been used in threats to human rights activists and journalists in Honduras. Álvarez Martínez was a General in the Honduran armed forces between 1982 and 1984 at the time of grave human rights abuses, and has been linked by local human rights groups to paramilitary death squads in that period.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to order an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats received by members of PROAH, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- Urging them to take effective measures to stop the harassment and threats directed at all members of PROAH, as well as other human rights defenders in Honduras, and report back on the steps taken to comply with this request;
- 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 27 JUNE 2012 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 for Justice and Human Rights

Ana Pineda
Ministra de Justicia y Derechos Humanos
Col. Lomas del Mayab,
Ave. República de Costa Rica,
Entre BAC-BAMER y BANHCAFE
Tegucigalpa MDC
HONDURAS

Email: info@sjdh.gob.hn

Salutation: Estimada Sra. Ministra/ Dear Minister

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 -OR- 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

PROTECTION GROUP IN HONDURAS THREATENED

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PROAH is a project of the non-profit US organization Friendship Office of the Americas. PROAH has provided protective accompaniment for Honduran human rights defenders since 2010; volunteer delegates from Europe and North America accompany individuals and organizations believed to be at risk of attack in order to dissuade violence and increase respect for human rights.

Comando Álvarez Martínez (CAM) is a pseudonym which has been used in threats to human rights activists and journalists in the aftermath of the 2009 coup d'état. Álvarez Martínez was a General in the Honduran armed forces between 1982 and 1984 at the time of grave human rights abuses, and has been linked by local human rights groups to paramilitary death squads in that period. More recently, the acronym was also used in threats against journalist and human rights defender Dina Meza (see UA 106/12 Index: AMR 37/006/2012 Issue Date: 18 April 2012).

Name: Two volunteers for PROAH (Proyecto de Acompañamiento en Honduras), whose names are known to Amnesty International (f)
Issue(s): Death threats, Harassment

UA: 136/12

Issue Date: 17 May 2012

Country: Honduras