

**Rights Action**  
**September 27, 2009**

## **HONDURAS COUP RESISTANCE –**

### **FROM VERY BAD TO WORSE: Sister Of Community Leader, Berta Caceres, Is Illegally Detained And Tortured**

(Rights Action, September 27, 2009, Day 92 of coup resistance, Alert#74)

*Agustina (sister of Berta Caceres) said: "While one of them twisted my arms behind me and put handcuffs on me, another was hitting me in the face and choking me around the neck. [...] While hitting me, they were shouting: "You are the bitches of the resistance. It is good that you get fucked over.""*

The very bad situation in Honduras will now get worse.

The illegal oligarchic-military regime, headed by Roberto Micheletti and General Ramon Vasquez, announced they will suspend ALL constitutional civil liberties, for 45 days.

Since June 28, they have already been violating rights and repressing the population with impunity, including dozens of killings, beatings, firing rubber and live bullets at protesters, illegal detentions, torture (including rape) while detained, forced entry into private homes, etc.

#### **BELOW:**

- Report from doctor who visited with Honduran woman illegally detained and tortured
- Report about pending suspension of ALL constitutional civil rights
- An article about the use of chemical (toxic) and electronic weaponry against the Brazilian embassy and people inside
- What to do?

Please re-distribute & re-publish this information all around

To get on/ off Rights Action's email list:

<http://www.rightsaction.org/lists/?p=subscribe&id=3/>

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## **REPORT FROM DOCTOR WHO VISITED WITH HONDURAN WOMAN ILLEGALLY DETAINED AND TORTURED**

FREEDOM FOR AGUSTINA FLORES: A TORTURED TEACHER  
(Freedom for the political prisoners - Doctor's Testimony)

[This english summary of parts of it, prepared by Rights Action]

I am Juan Ángel Almendarez Bonilla, a Honduran doctor and member of the Medical College of Honduras, # 430. I am director of the CPTRT (Center for the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims and their Families).

I present this testimony to national and international human rights organizations, which addresses the violent acts and torture that Agustina Flores Lopez suffered. She is a 54 year old teacher.

On September 24, at 6:30pm, I was called by Berta Cáceres, a community leader with COPINH and sister of Agustina, and by Berta Oliva, president of COFADEH (Committee of Family Members of the Disappeared).

They asked me to urgently visit and do a medical examination of Agustina, jailed by the DGIC (Department of Criminal Investigation in Comayagüela [a separate city, part of Tegucigalpa]).

At 7pm, September 24, I went with COFADEH and Berta Cáceres to the DGIC – a curfew was in effect. The authorities permitted our visit. According to Agustina Flores López, she was captured by 8 female police officers on September 22, between 6 and 6:30am, when she was walking near the Brazilian Embassy in Tegucigalpa.

Agustina said: "While one of them twisted my arms behind me and put handcuffs on me, another was hitting me in the face and choking me around the neck. I saw a name "Garcia". While hitting me, they were shouting: "You are the bitches of the resistance. It is good that you get fucked over.""

"First, they took me to the Manchen. The Patrol had 6 members of the resistance, all beaten. Then, they took me to the Chochi Sosa stadium. At first there were 11 of us detained. Later, I saw some 30 members of the resistance, beaten and wounded. Then I was taken to the Centro de Detención policial CORE VII. They took my cel-phone and have not given it back."

I found Agustina in a state of deep sadness; her face was distorted. She had bruised skin in various parts of her body - face, neck, shoulders – caused by the beatings from the police. At times, she was dizzy and lost her balance. She does not remember if she lost consciousness at times. She was confused.

Agustina has pre-existing conditions, including a problems with her immune system, leaving her susceptible to infections and diseases.

[...]

According to the Association for the Liberty of the Political Prisoners, here are some of the people illegally detained in the National Penitentiary “Marco Aurelio Soto”, accused of crimes such as damages and sedition:

SANTOS REYNARDO GARCIA MONCADA  
JOE ORLANDO GARCIA MONCADA  
MARIA ANTOLINA GARCIA HERNANDES  
OSCAR JOAQUIN GARCIA MONCADA  
GLADYS ASUZENA LAGOS  
VICTOR ADOLFO IZAGUIRRE RAMOS (18 años)  
MARIO ENRIQUE MOLINA  
ANTONIO PORTA ALVAREZ  
MILTON MATEO CENTENO MARTINEZ  
WALTER JOEL RODRIGUEZ ANDINO

Two children were set free, with pending charges, under the false accusations of armed robbery:

VICTOR IBRAHAM COREA MARTINEZ  
FRANKLIN ARIEL OLIVA BAQUEDN

Dr. Juan Almandares, 011 [504] 237-5700, c: 9985-4150,  
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## **SUSPENSION OF ALL CONSTITUTIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS**

From Tom Loudon [mailto:toml@quixote.org]  
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2009 8:11 PM

Today at noon it was announced that yesterday the Official Daily La Gaceta published an executive decree, signed by Micheletti and his

pseudo-ministers, which suspends all Constitutional guarantees for 45 days.

This decree prohibits all meetings and demonstrations without permission of the military, speak against officials or emit information different than official pronouncements.

At the same time, it is considered that any media which doesn't transmit information considered 'official' the National Commission of Telecommunications (CONATEL) is authorized to use the police and military to close these media outlets. This is a clear threat against Choluta Sur (Channel 36), Radio Globo, Radio Progreso, Radio Uno and the newspaper El Liberador. The newspaper Diario Tiempo is also at risk, because it has maintained an editorial position against the coup.

As a response to this decree channel 36 has maintained rotating strikes against transmissions for 30 minutes, putting a pattern of colors on the screen with a message "This is what Micheletti wants".

The situation continues to be extremely tense, difficult to identify solutions via dialogue. The coup actors are not willing to abandon power nor have they realized any dialogue.

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Sept. 25, 2009

### **THE SOUND AND FURY OF THE HONDURAN COUP: ACOUSTIC AND CHEMICAL ATTACKS ON BRAZILIAN EMBASSY**

By Laura Carlsen

We have received many reports today of the use of sound devices and chemical warfare in attacks on the Brazilian Embassy by the Honduran coup. The use of Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) has been confirmed by observers and journalists, who report that the devices are being installed throughout the area. Numerous photographers have also documented their use.

The UN Security Council today called upon the de facto government of Honduras to "cease harassing the Brazilian Embassy" and "condemned acts of intimidation."

These devices are described as a "non-lethal weapon" produced by the U.S.-based American Technology Corporation. They emit painful sound at

151 db. with a range of 300 meters on land, and are used in situations of war and to control demonstrations.

While acoustics weapons have been used over the past several days, today the Armed Forces actually began to spray the Embassy with poisonous gases and by some accounts pump them into the building through the drainage system. The Honduran News Network reports that First Lady Xiomara Castro de Zelaya climbed a ladder to ascertain the source of the attacks and was sprayed with chemicals. She and others in the Embassy are reportedly bleeding profusely as a result of the effects of the chemicals.

Father Andres Tamayo described the situation to Radio Progreso, "Over a thousand soldiers in front (of the Embassy) left and returned with a cistern and helicopters spraying gases. There are also neighbors that lent their houses to spray these substances and house the military. They have placed pipes to spread the gases. We feel a tightness in our stomachs and throat, vomiting, dizziness and some people are urinating blood. There are more than a thousand people around here and at this moment all we can do is drink a little milk."

A press conference was called to reveal the results of the analysis of the gas, done by public health specialist Dr. Mauricio Castellanos.

- \* Concentrations above normal of amonia, which is used as a base of pepper gas
- \* Concentration between 100 and 200 particles per thousand
- \* Hydrocyanic acid, which produces a rapid reaction on inhaling when it enters in contact with the iron in the blood, and produces vertigo, nausea, stomach pain, headaches and breathing difficulties

The report concluded, "This mixture is technologically purely military, prohibited under international treaties. Exposure for a prolonged period is lethal to any living organism."

Juan Almeyda, a Honduran medical doctor and human rights leader, states: "The occupants of the Brazilian Embassy that accompany President Manuel Zelaya Rosales, his wife and family, communities and protesters are the object of the launching of chemical arms from helicopters and airplanes or troops, and the use of sophisticated sound and electromagnetic equipment that have produced severe diarrhea, vomiting, nasal hemorrhages and gastrointestinal problems in both the Embassy and surrounding areas.

"According to the clinical reports, this could be due to the usage of toxic substances including: pesticides, chemical components of gases, radioactive substances like radioactive cesium and toxic mushrooms.

"It is urgent that an international medical team from the United Nations and the World Health Organization be sent. We are facing an irregular war against the people of Honduras. The Armed Forces do not allow the International Red Cross entry into the Brazilian Embassy, violating all international health treaties and conventions and human rights."

Numerous reports, including Honduran News Network sources, also mentioned the use of radioactive cesium. If the use of radioactive cesium is confirmed, the consequences are very serious. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry finds that the effects of high levels include the symptoms listed above and even coma and death.

This is the notorious "day-after" effect of nuclear bombs. The agency adds that "it is reasonable to expect that individuals exposed to high levels of radiation from a source of radioactive cesium will develop the same types of cancer observed in survivors of the atomic bombs in Japan."

As described in the Sept. 22 blog, embassies are protected under the Vienna Convention and any violation of this is an international issue. With the notable exceptions of Colombia and the United States, all nations of the region expressed concern about the Honduran situation at the 64th UN General Assembly meeting.

[...]

President Zelaya has called on "the resistance to maintain the fight that together, the people and the president, will achieve the constitutional reforms and fall of the usurpers."

With the no-holds-barred repression unleashed by the coup regime and the increasing militancy and organization of the resistance -- still adhering to principles of non-violence, to their credit -- the political ground has once again shifted in Honduras. The terms of the San Jose Accords, hammered out by President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica and consistently rejected by the coup regime, have become clearly obsolete. The demand for a constitutional assembly has grown in breadth and volume throughout the country.

The urgent tasks before the international community are to recognize that the crisis requires structural reforms and not patch-ups, to halt the human

rights violations immediately, and to take all diplomatic steps toward the reinstatement of the constitutional government.

(Laura Carlsen, Director, Americas Program, [www.americaspolicy.org](http://www.americaspolicy.org))

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**FOR INTERVIEWS (English & Espanol) FROM INSIDE THE EMBASSY:** Andres Tomas Conteris, 011 [504] 9777-8514

**FOR INTERVIEWS (English & Espanol) AND MORE INFORMATION:** Grahame Russell, Rights Action, 1-860-352-2448, [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org), [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org)

## **WHAT TO DO**

### **AMERICANS & CANADIANS**

should contact our members of congress, senators & members of parliament every day, day after day, send copies of this information, and demand:

- unconditional and public support for the return of the entire constitutional government of President Zelaya
- unequivocal denunciation of the military coup and no recognition of the illegal oligarchic-military regime of Roberto Micheletti and General Romeo Vasquez
- unequivocal demand and pressures from international community for regime to relinquish power
- no recognition of the November 2009 elections, that candidates from the traditional Nationalist and Liberal parties are campaigning for, even as the country is militarized and repression is widespread
- immediate suspension of all international funds and loans to the regime, and targeted economic, military and diplomatic sanctions against the coup plotters and perpetrators
- application of international and national justice against the coup plotters and perpetrators
- reparations to the victims of harms and damages (including loss of life, torture, rape) committed by regime

### **MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS**

to directly support Honduran organizations and people working with the National Front Against the Coup. Make check to "rights action" and mail to:

UNITED STATES: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887

CANADA: 552-351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS: <http://rightsaction.org/contributions.htm>

For foundations and institutional donors, Rights Action can (upon request) provide a full proposal of which organizations and people we are channeling funds to and supporting.

**SPEAKING TOURS: "RESISTANCE TO MILITARY COUPS & GOLD MINING DEVASTATION IN HONDURAS & GUATEMALA"**

In October, activists with Rights Action will be on speaking tours in Ontario, Quebec and eastern Canada, and north-east USA, showing slides and short documentaries and speaking about the on-going pro-democracy, anti coup movement in Honduras and about indigenous and community resistance to Goldcorp Inc.'s open-pit, cyanide leach mines in Guatemala and Honduras.

Karen Spring ([spring.kj@gmail.com](mailto:spring.kj@gmail.com)) in Ontario

Francois Guindon ([francois.guindon@gmail.com](mailto:francois.guindon@gmail.com)) in Quebec and eastern Canada

Grahame Russell ([info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)) in north-east USA

Thank-you for your on-going support for our work and for this amazing struggle.