

RIGHTS ACTION / DERECHOS EN ACCION
September 29, 2009

FUND-RAISING APPEAL:

**RESISTING THE OLIGARCHIC-MILITARY REGIME IN HONDURAS, IN DEFENSE
OF DEMOCRACY & THE RULE OF LAW**

FUNDING REQUEST - \$75,000 (FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2009)

BELOW:

- A summary of funds Rights Action has distributed thus far
- An explanation of how we would distribute more funds
- How to donate

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/>

A STRUGGLE OF THE AMERICAS

As of September 29, the people of Honduras are entering their 4th month of resistance to the oligarchic-military regime in Honduras, since the June 28th coup.

There is a struggle to restore the government of President Zelaya and continue on their path to bring about real democratic reforms.

This is a struggle of Hondurans for Honduras, and it is a struggle of the Americas. Across the continent, there are struggles going on between poor majorities and wealthy and powerful elites who resist change to the status quos in their countries and in the Americas.

With global support and activism, with human rights accompaniment and with funding, the Honduran people can turn back the coup! It is very difficult, the repression, rights violations and destruction of democracy are happening now, but the need and desire are there, in the Honduran people.

We write to ask for funds that we will use by Rights Action and channeled to community based groups and people in Honduras, for their work in defense of democracy and the rule of law.

FUNDS DISTRIBUTED & SPENT TO DATE - \$65,000

Rights Action has made the following grants and mini-grants for peaceful, community based work in favour of democracy (the restoration of democratic institutions and popular participation) and in favor of the rule of law (the restoration of an impartial legal system and defense of human rights)

- Frente = Frente Nacional Contra El Golpe
- Int'l Solid = International Solidarity, Human Rights Accompaniment & Reporting
- COPINH – Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations in Honduras
- COFADEH – Committee of Family Members of the Disappeared in Honduras
- OFRANEH – Fraternal Organization of Black and Garifuna Peoples

\$648.70, 6/30/09, Int'l Solid: flight, RA-GR, USA-Ho

\$15,180, 7/1/09, Frente – COPINH: Community Defense of Democracy and Rule of Law

\$110, 7/6/09, Emergency Support: hotel, 2 journalists with threats

\$700, 7/10/09, Int'l solid: RA-RM, Gu-Ho

\$1,208, 7/10/09, Int'l Solid: Deleg'n from Guatemala/ Rigoberta Menchu, et al

\$1,710, 7/10/09, Frente – Comite negociaciones: 4 flights, Ho-CR (ViaCamp)

\$1,500, 7/10/9, COFADEH: HR and Rule of Law Defense Work

\$3,543.77, 7/12/09, Frente – Comite negociaciones: 3 flights & WDC trip, JA, JD, MP, AB

\$1,361, 7/13/09, Frente – COPINH: Community Defense of Democracy and Rule of Law

\$167, 7/13/09, Frente - Comite Valle Siria: Community Defense of Democracy and Rule of Law

\$496, 7/16/09, Int'l Solid: flight RA-GR, Ho-Gu

\$607, 7/16/9, Frente – Comite negotiations: flight, Ho-CR, SZ

\$1,725, 7/16/09, Frente – OFRANEH: Community Defense of Democracy and Rule of Law

\$455, 7/16/09, Independent Journalism: SC

\$607, 7/16/09, Independent journalism: JT, Camera Sony

\$470, 7/16/09, Tech. Support, LaRed: Communications - Backup Compu

\$975, 7/16/09, Frente - Comite comunicaciones

\$388, 7/16/09, Emergency Support: Familia Isis

\$260, 7/16/09, Emergency support: Familia Ariel

\$7,200, June-September, Int'l Solid: RA-GR, AB, solid/ HR accomp/

reporting

\$2,060, 8/10/09, Frente – OFRANEH: Community Defense of Democracy and Rule of Law

\$2,060, 8/10/09, COFADEH: HR and Rule of Law Defense Work

\$325, 7/30/09, Int'l Solid: communications-translation: MjM

\$400, 8/13/09, Emergency support: Carlos to El Salvador

\$1,311, July-September, Int'l Solid: RA-KS solid/ HR accomp/ reporting

\$1,248, 9-8-21, Frente – Comite comunicaciones: radio

\$1,360 [\$500 + L15,500], 9-9-9, Frente – Comite comunicaciones: radio

\$775 [L14,000], 9-9-9, Frente – security committee

\$220 [L4,000], 9-9-9, Emergencias: Familia Isis

\$275 [L5,000], 9-9-10, Frente – Youth Group (UNAH): Community Defense of Democracy and Rule of Law

\$275 [L5,000], 9-9-10, Frente – Youth Group (U. Pedagogica): Community Defense of Democracy and Rule of Law

\$275 [L5,000], 9-9-10, Frente – Women's Organization: Community Defense of Democracy and rule of Law

\$80 [L1,500], 9-9-11, Emergencias: Sra Vasquez

\$135 [L2,500], 9-9-11, Frente – OFRANEH: Community Defense of Democracy and Rule of Law

\$525 [L9,500], 9-9-11, Frente – Valle De Siria: Community Defense of Democracy and Rule of Law

\$525 [L9,500], 9-9-12, Frente – Comite comunicaciones: radio

\$390 [L6,000 + \$60], 9-9-13, Int'l Solid: RA-GR-KS solid/ HR accomp/ reporting

\$525, 9/9/12, Frente – Comite comunicaciones: radio

\$156.21, 9/9/16, Frente – Comite comunicaciones: Camera Samsung

\$312, 9/9/17, Independent journalist: SC

\$832, 9/9/21, Frente – OFRANEH: Community Defense of Democracy and Rule of Law

\$1,127.82, Frente: Various (p & r)

\$564.12, Independent journalist: SC

\$1,098.75, Frente – COPINH: Community Defense of Democracy and Rule of Law

\$1,500, 9/9, Int'l Solid: RA-KS, oct-nov-dec

BACKGROUND – RIGHTS ACTION WORK IN HONDURAS

Since 1998, in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, RA has supported and worked with indigenous, campesino and human rights groups in Honduras, including: COPINH, OFRANEH and COFADEH.

Since 2002, we have supported and worked with a number of groups that are denouncing and opposing the environmental and health harms, and

human rights violations, caused by Goldcorp Inc's open pit, cyanide leech gold mine in central Honduras: Siria Valley Enviro-Defense Committee and CPRPT (Center for Torture Prevention).

We supported these groups in their emergency response work to Hurricane Mitch, their community and enviro-defense work related to mining, and in their long-term community development, human rights promotion and environmental defense work.

Even as each of these groups works in particular regions, on particular issues, they all have a common vision of a different future for Honduras – one based on:

- * real democratic participation
- * a well functioning administration of justice
- * an end to exploitation and poverty, and
- * an end to impunity and human rights violations

SINCE THE JUNE 28TH COUP

None of these groups were committed supporters of the military-ousted President Mel Zelaya. However, all of them are committed supporters of real democracy and the rule of law.

Leaders of our partner groups, and many others, are being targeted by the military regime. (Many of them also suffered from the State terrorism and repression of the USA-backed military regimes of the 1980s and early 1990s!)

On a rotating basis, Rights Action staff (from Guatemala and Honduras) have been in Honduras since the coup, and are working with people, organizations and the National Front Against the Coup, and are reporting regularly on what is happening.

ACTUAL SITUATION

The situation in Honduras could not be much worse. Like other groups, Rights Action receives more information about resistance and repression than we can relay. The basic situation is as follows:

- * the democratically elected government was violently deposed on June 28th in an illegal military coup, in collusion with powerful economic and political elites
- * the coup regime has militarized the country and many public institutions

- * most balanced media has been shut, repressed or censored, while a propaganda campaign (well planned by the pro-coup sectors) is being implemented by the coup regime
- * dozens of people have been killed by soldiers, police and para-military groups, including journalists, campesinos, opposition politicians, teachers
- * dozens of people have been injured and 100s of people have been arbitrarily captured (and suffered torture, including rape, while detained)
- * Army and police violence (tear-gas, beatings, rubber and live bullets) is being used to repress the on-going, daily protests against the coup
- * Some members of popular organizations are in hiding as they are being targeted for illegal capture or repression
- * there is a 'state of siege' in place, including army and police road-blocks, daily curfew, etc, enforced by the army and police
- * the illegal coup regime is ousting pro-democracy individuals from state ministries and institutions, replacing them with pro-coup regime people

At www.rightsaction.org: read our series of "Honduras Military Coup Alerts". You will read analysis and reports, and references to groups – in Honduras and outside – who are working to resist the coup.

FUNDING REQUEST - \$75,000 (OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2009):

- * general support funds for members of the Frente, and other community-based groups, carrying work in their own regions of the country, and nationally, in defense of democracy and human rights: \$50,000
- * emergency funds for individuals targeted by the regime: \$5,000
- * legal defense funds for people illegally detained by the regime: \$5,000
- * funds to help with communications, transportation and food costs related to defense of democracy and rule of law activities: \$5,000
- * funds to enable North American human rights activists and delegations to come to Honduras to accompany the Honduran people, and for Hondurans to travel to North America to inform about the situation: \$10,000

HOW TO MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

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>

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We look forward to your questions or comments.

Annie Bird & Grahame Russell, co-directors

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