

## Rights Action

### DAY 155, Honduras Coup Resistance

(November 28, 2009, Coup Alert#98)

### Honduran Military Shoots Man On Eve Of “Free And Fair” Elections

By Tanya Brannan, photos by Julie Webb-Pullman

#### FOR INTERVIEWS & MORE INFO:

- In Honduras: Grahame Russell, 011-504-9488-1959, [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org) & Karen Spring, 011-504-9507-3835, [spring.kj@gmail.com](mailto:spring.kj@gmail.com)
- In USA: Annie Bird, 202-680-3002, [annie@rightsaction.org](mailto:annie@rightsaction.org)

Please re-distribute this information

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

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

\* \* \*

### HONDURAN MILITARY SHOOTS MAN ON EVE OF “FREE AND FAIR” ELECTIONS

By Tanya Brannan ([brannanlaw@comcast.net](mailto:brannanlaw@comcast.net)), photos by Julie Webb-Pullman ([jwebbp@gmail.com](mailto:jwebbp@gmail.com))

Between Thursday midnight and early this morning, four young men were traveling in a car near the High Command of the Honduran Army. Suddenly the men saw a soldier shouting for them to stop. The driver, Angel Fabricio Salgado Hernandez, age 34, applied the brakes, but before the car could stop, the soldier opened fire. Salgado was shot point-blank in the head, and the car was sprayed with at least three bullets, possibly more.

Salgado's family received a call in the early morning hours advising them that Angel was in the emergency room at the Hospital Escuela. As a part of the family headed toward the hospital, others went to the DGIC (the Central Department of General Investigations) to immediately file a complaint.

As we arrived at the hospital at 11:00 this morning, the hallway was filled with shell-shocked family members. Clearly Angel was dying. The bullet broke his skull as it entered his head and again as it exited. Most of his cranium was destroyed. Doctors had started to operate, but could not stabilize him enough to survive the surgery. As I write this he is on life support, but it is only a matter of time. Angel Salgado is dying – assassinated by the Honduran army.

As the international press arrived, family members stepped forward, timidly at first, to relate what little they knew. But by the time Angel's sister-in-law, Ana Alviro spoke, the timidity had disappeared. "This is how they kill people in this country;" she said, "like dogs. And they can do this because we, the Honduran people, stay silent. We can't continue like this – we have to stand up."

Here's what we know: after the shooting, all four of the men were taken to the police station, including Angel - shot in the head! Police were told not to notify the family, but somehow Salgado's brother arrived at the police station not long after. He was told that the military said the men were armed (but no arms have been found). The crime scene had already been cleaned, so it was impossible to reconstruct events with any accuracy.

From the police station, all four were brought to the hospital emergency room. Immediately Angel was taken to intensive care. Although one of the other men had also been shot in the foot, he received no medical attention. Instead they were taken to the DGIC and interrogated. After the interrogation, the three were taken to their homes by the military.

"Clearly this was done to intimidate the three witnesses – to tell them, 'We know where you live,'" Angel's brother Octavia Alvira said. To witness a man shot in the head by the military (some sources say a colonel) is a terrifying thing on the eve of these elections intended to legitimate a military coups. The witnesses are now in hiding.

This morning, shortly before we arrived, two military "doctors," identifying themselves as "Dr." Chacon and "Dr." Rivera entered the intensive care salon. They stood around Angel's bed, apparently to see if they had to fear his possible testimony. Hospital workers said they had never seen military doctors in the Hospital Escuela. Ana Alvira said they subsequently checked the identity of these so-called doctors, and everything they said was lies.

As the cameras honed in on family members, we moved to protect Angel's mother from the intrusion as she wept uncontrollably. "My child is gone – my little child is gone," she wept. "He was not armed. He was assassinated."

(Tanya Brannan, with the National Lawyers Guild, and Julie Webb are on a Rights Action delegation)

\* \* \*

## **JUST SAY NO. WRITE, RIGHT NOW ...**

Rights Action is one of a number of organizations that have international human rights observer missions in Honduras. These are NOT election observing missions.

We do not recognize the validity of these elections. For reasons set out in many previous Alerts (found at [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org)), a majority of Hondurans and most of the so-called “international community” have concluded the November 29th elections (for President, Congress members, and Mayors) are neither free nor fair in any way.

Now – through to next week - is the time to contact your own politicians (members of parliament, congress members and senators) and insist on:

- The unconditional return of President Zelaya and his government to full constitutional power and authority
- No recognition of the November 29 elections
- Justice for the plotters and perpetrators of the military coup, and
- Reparations for the victims of the regime repression

### **TO DONATE FUNDS**

Please continue to financially support the pro-democracy, anti-coup movement in Honduras. In Honduras, this week, we are providing emergency relief funds directly to victims and family members of victims of repression.

Make your tax-deductible 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 provide a report of which organizations and people we are channeling funds to and supporting.