

Rights Action
December 14, 2011

Honduras – Beatings & Killings Of Journalists

Below

Female Journalist Killed, December 6th

By Red Morazanica De Información

Cops Beat Protesting Journalists, December 13th

By EFE news service

The deadliest place in the world for a journalist

The Real News report by Jesse Freeston)

http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=272

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FEMALE JOURNALIST KILLED IN HONDURAS

December 7, 2011, RED MORAZANICA DE INFORMACIÓN

http://www.resistenciahonduras.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4059:first-female-journalist-killed-after-coup-in-honduras-&catid=101:news&itemid=349

Tegucigalpa, December 6, 2011. A new crime against journalists has been perpetrated this day in Honduras, when journalist Luz Marina Paz Villalobos was killed by gunmen on board of a motorcycle. Paz Villalobos was heading from her home residence in the Francisco Morazan neighborhood accompanied by her driver when at the exit of the residence she was attacked to death.

The fact, classified as an attack to the freedom of expression by social organization and movements, adds up to a series of acts of intimidation

against several journalists in recent days. The assassination of Luz Marina Paz, joins a long list of journalists killed under the regime of Porfirio Lobo, a US backed government put in place as a result of a widely contested electoral process. The number of journalists killed after Lobo was sworn in increases to 17, and to 23 after the June, 2009 military Coup d'état making of Honduras the deathliest place on earth to report per capita.

In his radio program, Felix Molina reported that the murder of Luz Marina marks a different trend, mostly because male journalists working in minor cities for local agencies or as correspondents of major national agencies were targeted by death squads up to now, "...she is the first female and the first journalist killed in Tegucigalpa" he said. Paz Villalobos directed for several years the radio program "Tres en la Noticia" (Three in the News) in Radio Globo and lately worked in a local radio newscaster.

COPS BEAT PROTESTING JOURNALISTS IN HONDURAS

EFE. December 13, 2011

TEGUCIGALPA – Several people were beaten by police and troops on Tuesday during a protest to demand justice for the 24 journalists murdered in Honduras over the last eight years, including 17 slain since January 2010.

Some 40 news professionals marched from the eastern part of Tegucigalpa to the presidential palace, where soldiers and cops responded with batons and tear gas when the protesters tried to get around a security barrier. The demonstrators then laid down on the pavement at the entrance to the palace's parking lot. "That's how they want us, they want us quiet and asleep," said one of the organizers of the protest, Claudia Mendoza. "We denounce ... the aggression against journalists displayed by the government." The idea for the demonstration came from a group of woman journalists who work for alternative media outlets and in government agencies.

Since the June 2009 coup that toppled President Mel Zelaya, killings of reporters "have increased with a criminal pattern that endangers life and the practice of journalism," the protesters said in a statement. They also

demanded punishment for the “white-collar assassins” behind assaults on the freedom of expression and information and on the liberty of “Hondurans in general.”

President Porfirio Lobo’s press secretary said the palace did not order police and troops to break up the protest. “We will investigate who gave the order to repress the journalists,” Miguel Angel Bonilla told reporters. Lobo took office in January 2010 after winning an election organized by the junta that ousted Zelaya. Turnout was low following a campaign marked by suppression of independent media and violence against opponents of the coup. EFE

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