

Rights Action  
April 24, 2012

**Dina Meza, Journalist, Receiving More Threats**  
Rights Action urgent action

**WHAT TO DO – SEE BELOW:**

- Urgent letter writing needed
- Donations need for Honduran pro-democracy movement
- Join an educational-solidarity delegation to Honduras

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**DEFENSORES EN LINEA, 4/23/2012**

Dina Meza, a Honduran journalist and human rights activist, has received a series of threats of sexual violence against her in recent weeks. Her safety is at risk. Dina Meza reports on human rights issues for the website Defenders Online (Defensores en Linea). She is also a human rights activist with the Committee of the Families of the Detained and Disappeared (Comité de Familiares de los Detenidos y Desaparecidos, COFADEH), a prominent human rights organization in Honduras.

On April 14th, Dina Meza received three silent calls to her mobile phone in the morning and afternoon from the same number. As she answered a fourth call, a male caller asked her “What’s new?” (“¿Qué hay de nuevo?”) and hung up. Dina Meza phoned back, asked the man who he was and what he wanted. The caller said his name was Miguel and claimed that he had dialed the wrong number, but ended the call by telling Dina “Look after your pussy (“Cuidese la pipa”).

A week earlier, on April 6th, Dina Meza was walking in her neighborhood with her children when she noticed two men taking photos of them.

Weeks earlier, on February 22nd, Dina Meza received two threats by text message with reference to sexual violence. The first text message said “We’ll burn your pussy with lime until you scream and the whole squad will enjoy it [...] CAM (“Les vamos a quemar con cal la pipa hasta q griten y luego toda la cuadrilla va gozar” CAM ). The second text message said

“[...] You’ll end up dead like people in the Aguán there’s nothing better than fucking some bitches.” (... Vas a terminar como los del aguan muertos no hay nada mas rico q cojer a unas zorras”.

CAM is an acronym for Comando Álvarez Martínez, a pseudonym which has been used in threats to human rights activists and journalists in the aftermath of the 2009 coup d’etat.

Dina Meza is a beneficiary of Precaution Measures granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in 2006 and 2009 to safeguard her security. To date, the authorities have not implemented the orders.

### **HOW CAN I INTERCEDE FOR THE LIFE AND INTEGRITY OF DINA MEZA?**

Write to the Honduran authorities immediately:

- Calling for an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats against Dina Meza, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- Urging that the authorities take immediate steps to fully comply with the IACHR orders. The form of protection provided to Dina Meza must be agreed to by her and reflect her own wishes;
- Reminding the authorities 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.

Attorney General  
Sr. Luis Alberto Rubí  
Fiscal General de la República  
Lomas del Guijarro, Avenida República  
Dominicana, Edificio Lomas Plaza II  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Fax: +504 2221 5667

Minister of Interior  
Sr. Pompeyo Bonilla  
Secretaría de Estado en el Despacho de Seguridad, Plantel Casamata,  
subida al

Picacho, Tegucigalpa, M.D.C,  
Honduras  
Fax: +504 2220 1756

- **NORTH AMERICANS:** Please send copies of your letter to the American or Canadian politicians and government officials below)

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: WHO IS DINA MEZA?**

Dina Meza is a well-known journalist and human rights defender. As part of COFADEH she works on the land conflict in the Lower Aguán region of Honduras. The Lower Aguán region is at the centre of a series of land disputes between peasant farming communities and various companies and private landowners that have erupted into violent clashes. In March Dina participated in a session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington DC, regarding the human rights situation and legal framework in Honduras.

### **“COMANDO ÁLVAREZ MARTÍNEZ” (CAM)**

Comando Álvarez Martínez (CAM) is a pseudonym that 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 the paramilitary death squad “Batallón 3-16”.

In 2007, Dina Meza received Amnesty International UK's “Special Award for Human Rights Journalism Under Threat’ for her journalism for the website Revistazo. In 2006, Dina Meza and colleagues at online publication Revistazo.com and its publisher the Association for a More Just Society (ASJ), were subjected to a campaign of harassment and intimidation after investigating several private security firms for labor rights violations.

ASJ attorney, Dionisio Díaz García, was shot dead in December 2006 while on his way to the Honduran Supreme Court to prepare for a related case taken up by the organization. The investigation and trials on Dionisio Díaz García's case were carried out from 2007 to 2009 and resulted in the sentencing of a former security guard, who had worked for SETECH, and a police officer for his killing.

In the months leading up to his murder, Dionisio Díaz García and Dina Meza were followed by unmarked cars. Dina Meza's children were followed home from school and personal, derogatory comments were posted about her on the Revistazo.com online message board. In 2006, Amnesty International issued an urgent action on behalf of the ASJ, including Dina Meza who was at the time one of its members, – Honduras: Fear for Safety/ Death Threats (AI Index AMR 37/007/2006). Several other Urgent Actions followed in 2007 on behalf of ASJ.

Dina Meza's case was also featured in the report "Persecution and resistance: the experience of human rights defenders in Guatemala and Honduras" (AI Index AMR 02/001/2007).

Human rights defenders and journalists in Honduras are at risk: they are threatened, attacked or killed because of their work which exposes human rights violations.

In January 2012, journalist Gilda Silvestrucci received telephone death threats. (UA 78/12 AMR 37/004/2012). In February, Wilfredo Paz and Juan Chinchilla, two human rights activists campaigning for land rights of peasant farmers amid ongoing disputes over land ownership in the Lower Aguan region, received a death threat by text message. (UA 66/12 AMR 37/003/2012). In March, journalist Mavis Ethel Cruz received a telephone death threat. (UA 28/12 AMR 37/002/2012).

[http://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cms/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1966:periodista-de-derechos-humanos-amenazada&catid=54:den&Itemid=171](http://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1966:periodista-de-derechos-humanos-amenazada&catid=54:den&Itemid=171)

(\*) translated by PROAH, Proyecto de Acompañamiento internacional en Honduras, (PROAH). Oficina de Amistad de las Américas, <http://proah.wordpress.com>

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## **NO MORE POLITICS AND BUSINESS AS USUAL**

Rights Action asks North Americans to keep on, keep on, keep on sending copies of this information, and your own letters, to Canadian and American politicians and government officials ... and to your local

media. Since the June 2009 military coup, that ousted the democratically elected government of President Zelaya in Honduras, the governments of the USA and Canada are the governments that have most supported and legitimized the post-coup, repressive regimes of Honduras. North American companies and investors have increased their business activities in Honduras since the coup. In no small part, this illegitimate, repressive regime remains in power due to its political, economic and military relations with the USA and Canada.

## **USA**

WHITE HOUSE: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/CONTACT/>, 202-456-1111, Comment Line: 202-456-1414

CONGRESS: Go to <http://www.house.gov/> to get info for your member of Congress, and call: 202-224-3121

SENATE: Go to <http://www.senate.gov/> to get contact for your Senator, and call: 202-224-3121

STATE DEPARTMENT - Office of Western Hemisphere Affairs: 202 647-0834, [WHAAsstSecty@State.Gov](mailto:WHAAsstSecty@State.Gov)

MARIA OTERO, Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs; c/o Laura Pena, Assistant: [PenaL@state.gov](mailto:PenaL@state.gov)

BENJAMIN GEDAN, Honduras Desk Officer, (202) 647-3482, [GedanBN@state.gov](mailto:GedanBN@state.gov)

NATHAN ANDERSON, [andersonn2@state.gov](mailto:andersonn2@state.gov)

U.S. EMBASSY IN HONDURAS

Silvia Eiriz, Political Counselor, [eirizs@state.gov](mailto:eirizs@state.gov)

Simon Henshaw, [HenshawS@state.gov](mailto:HenshawS@state.gov)

## **CANADA**

Minister of Foreign Affairs - John Baird, [john.baird@parl.gc.ca](mailto:john.baird@parl.gc.ca)

Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas) - Peter Kent, [kent.p@parl.gc.ca](mailto:kent.p@parl.gc.ca)

NDP Foreign Affairs Critic - Paul Dewar, [Dewar.P@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Dewar.P@parl.gc.ca)

NDP International Trade Critic - Peter Julian, [Julian.P@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Julian.P@parl.gc.ca)

Liberal, John McKay, [MckayJ@parl.gc.ca](mailto:MckayJ@parl.gc.ca), [McKayJ8@parl.gc.ca](mailto:McKayJ8@parl.gc.ca)

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development - Kevin Sorenson, [SorenK@parl.gc.ca](mailto:SorenK@parl.gc.ca)

Foreign Affairs Committee Chairperson - Dean Allison, [allison.d@parl.gc.ca](mailto:allison.d@parl.gc.ca)

CANADIAN Embassy in Costa Rica (responsible for Honduras)

Ambassador Cameron MacKay, [Cameron.MacKay@international.gc.ca](mailto:Cameron.MacKay@international.gc.ca)

Political Officer Léonard Beaulne: Leonard.Beaulne@international.gc.ca  
sjcra@international.gc.ca, tglpa@international.gc.ca

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**HONDURAS EDUCATIONAL SOLIDARITY DELEGATION  
MAY 19-28, 2012**

The Coup vs. Democracy: Struggle of the Popular Movements  
Go to: <http://rightsaction.org/content/honduras-delegation-coup-vs-democracy-struggle-popular-movements>  
Write to: [afgj@afgj.org](mailto:afgj@afgj.org)

**GUATEMALA EDUCATIONAL SOLIDARITY DELEGATION  
JULY 7-15, 2012**

Community well-being, human rights & the environment \*versus\* mining companies that moil for gold (silver & nickel)  
Go to: <http://rightsaction.org/content/community-well-being-human-rights-environment-versus-mining-companies-moil-gold-silver>  
Write to: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

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**TO MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS**

for courageous community-based organizations in Honduras and Guatemala working and struggling for community controlled development, defense of the environment, justice and human rights, make check payable 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 can be made (anonymously):

[www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org)

• In Canada:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/DonationDetails.aspx?cookieCheck=true>

• In USA:

<https://npo.networkforgood.org/Donate/Donate.aspx?npoSubscriptionId=488>

DONATIONS OF STOCK can be made (anonymously):

[info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

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