

Rights Action  
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March 25, 2014

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From: PEN Canada

**Canadian Report Documenting Murdered Journalists And Impunity In Honduras To Be Presented In Washington, D.C.**

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1327745/canadian-report-documenting-murdered-journalists-and-impunity-in-honduras-to-be-presented-in-washington-d-c>

TORONTO, March 24, 2014 /CNW/ - In February 2012, Honduran journalist Dina Meza received two text messages that threatened her with sexual violence and death. The messages were signed Commando Alvarez Martinez, a pseudonym that is often used in Honduras to threaten human rights activists and journalists with torture, rape and death. The obvious intent was to move her to stop her investigative reporting in Honduras.



[July 2013 – The tortured, dismembered body of TV Globo journalist Aníbal Barrow was found.]

Ever since the 2009 coup, 32 journalists in the country have been murdered and many more, like Meza, continue to work in the face of such threats. According to a recent report by PEN Canada, PEN International, and the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law's International Human Rights Program, titled "Honduras: Journalism in the Shadow of Impunity", much of this violence is wrought by the state itself, and its corrupt police force.

These messages were not the only threats that Meza has received and she and her three children are regularly harassed, living in constant fear of retribution for Meza's work.

Now this week, thanks to the work of Canadians, Dina Meza will tell her story and publicly testify in Washington D.C. about the impunity and violence journalists like her face in Honduras.

PEN and the University of Toronto Faculty of Law's International Human Rights Program, have been granted a public hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington D.C. on Tuesday, March 25. This is the first time that the Commission has agreed to hear such a matter raised by the Canadian chapter of the freedom of expression organization and the report's key points will be read into the official record. Also, representatives of the Honduran government will be present and will have the opportunity to publicly respond to the report.

- Full Report (January 2014): <http://pencanada.ca/news/journalism-in-the-shadow-of-impunity-honduras/>
- Available for interview: Honduran journalist Dina Meza will be available Monday, March 24 and Tuesday, March 25, 2014. Brendan de Caires, Programs and Communications, PEN Canada, and Marian Botsford Fraser, Chair of PEN International's Writers in Prison Committee will also be presenting at the Commission and are available for interviews.
- For more information and to arrange interviews please contact: In Washington, D.C., Sarah Clarke, International Policy and Advocacy Officer, PEN International: +44 7575 030028 [sarah.clarke@pen-international.org](mailto:sarah.clarke@pen-international.org). In Canada, Juanita Bawagan, PEN Canada, [jbawagan@pencanada.ca](mailto:jbawagan@pencanada.ca), 416-703-8448 ext. 21

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What To Do:

### **In Honduras, Repression, Violence, Impunity And Corruption Are Policy**

**Americans / Canadians:** Keep on, keep on, ... keep on sending copies of this information, and your own letters, to your politicians (MPs, Congress members and Senators) and media. Since the June 2009 military coup, that ousted the last democratically elected government, Honduras has become the 'Murder Capital of the world'. Repression has reached the levels of the worst years of the 1980s. Since 2009, the U.S. and Canadian governments have legitimized a succession of illegitimate and repressive regimes. North American companies and investors, and "development" banks (World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank) have increased business activities in African palm production, maquiladora sweatshops, privatized "model cities", tourism and mining. The Honduran regime remains in power due in large part to its political, economic and military relations with the U.S. and Canada and the "development" banks. Across Honduras, community based organizations in the pro-democracy movement need considerably more human rights accompaniment, funding, media attention on the harms and violations and education and activism in Canada and the U.S.

Contact:

- Member Of Parliament: <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>
- Congress: <http://www.house.gov/> to get info for your member of Congress, and call: 202-224-3121
- Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/> to get contact for your Senator, and call: 202-224-3121

**Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)**

To support the work of civil society groups in Honduras working courageously for human rights, justice, the environment and community controlled development, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- United States: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8
- Credit-Card Donations (Canada & U.S.): <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

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