

## **From the USA**

### **To the People of Honduras - You are Not Alone! We Salute the Honduran People in Resistance and the March of Resistance on February 25, 2010**

The undersigned organizations working in the U.S.A. declare to the international community and to the Honduran people the following:

- The Coup d'etat of June 28, 2009 was unconstitutional and illegal; the human rights violations that it generated, including mass detentions, beatings, imprisonment, rapes, kidnappings, and murders constitute crimes against humanity. Nearly every article of the American Convention on Human Rights has been violated, beginning with the rupture of constitutional order and continuing with the thousands of rights violations
- These crimes and the crime of the coup itself have not been investigated and the perpetrators have not been brought to justice.
- The elections of November 29 were organized by an illegitimate coup regime, using violent repression against public protest and civic dissent, making free and fair elections impossibility. These elections were not recognized by most of the Honduran people and by most of the international community.
- Since the illegitimate elections of November 29, and, since the inauguration of the defacto government of Pepe Lobo, the human rights violations continue unabated, involving the military, national police, and increasingly, paramilitary death squad forces, targeting anew trade unionists, journalists, indigenous, Garifuna and campesino communities, and other members of the civil resistance to the coup.

In just the first two weeks of February there have been at least 6 documented murders, kidnappings or other extra-judicial repression against resistance members:

15 February, JULIO FUNES BENITEZ, a member of the water

and sewage workers union SITRASANAA: assassinated.

12 and 14 February, MOVIMIENTO UNIFICADO DE CAMPESINOS DE AGUAN- MUCA: armed attacks by army, police and paramilitaries.

12 February HERMES REYES, a cultural worker with the Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ): attacked and beaten by paramilitaries in Siguatepeque

12 February, PORFIRIO PONCE, vice president of the beverage workers union STYBIS and a leader of the National Resistance Front: His house in Tegucigalpa raided, his computer confiscated and his belongings destroyed.

9 February, EDGAR MARTÍNEZ, CAROL RIVERA, MELISSA RIVERA and JOHAN MARTÍNEZ, all active in the resistance movement: Kidnapped, beaten and severely mistreated for three days in San Pedro Sula.

3 February VANESSA YAMILETH ZEPEDA, a nurse and a unionist from the Honduras Institute of Social Security SITRAIHSS active in the resistance movement: kidnapped and assassinated in Tegucigalpa.

**Therefore,** the installation today, February 25, 2010 of the so-called Truth Commission, organized by the criminals themselves, is a travesty of justice. There can be no “truth” and no “reconciliation” without the end of impunity and the restoration of the Honduran people’s democratic sovereignty

As organizations in the United States of America we pledge:

- To continue working in solidarity with the Honduran People.
- To publicly and actively oppose the continuing U.S. government policy and actions, both overt or covert, that support as legitimate the defacto government, that continue to give aid or training to the Honduran military, police forces, or paramilitary forces and that are in contradiction with the rights and needs of the Honduran people.
- We also pledge to advocate for justice for the Honduran people in the international courts and international organizations charged with defense of human rights.

## **No Truth is Possible While Impunity Reigns!**

Signatories

United Steelworkers (USW), AFL-CIO/CLC

Quixote Center, USA

U.S. Labor Education in the Americas Project (USLEAP)

Alliance for Global Justice

Nicaragua Network

US-El Salvador Sister Cities Network

Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)

Grassroots International

Association of Internally Displaced Afro-Colombians (AFRODES-USA)

National Lawyers Guild, Task Force on the Americas

Grassroots Global Justice Alliance

Oscar Romero Faith and Solidarity Network in the Americas (SICSAL-USA)

School of the Americas Watch (SOA Watch)

School of the Americas Watch – Illinois

School of the Americas Watch – San Francisco Bay Area, California

Hondureños por la Democracia, Washington, DC

May I Speak Freely Media, Rockville, MD

Resistencia Honduras NY/NJ, New York & New Jersey

Central New York Caribbean/Latin America Coalition (CNY CLAC)

Proyecto Hondureño, Boston, Massachusetts

Comité de Solidaridad con la Resistencia Hondureña, Boston

Chelsea Uniéndose Contra la Guerra, Boston

Centro De Desarrollo Dominicano, Boston

Comité de Refugiados de El Salvador (CORES), Boston

Axis of Logic, Boston and Caracas

Project Voice (AFSC), Massachusetts

Centro Presente, Massachusetts

Job With Justice, Massachusetts

Red Nacional Salvadoreña USA

Romero Interfaith Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

InterReligious Task Force on Central America, Cleveland, Ohio

Casa Morazán, Chicago, Illinois

La Voz de los de Abajo, Chicago, Illinois

Illinois Maya Ministries, Illinois Conference, United Church of Christ

Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN)

Eighth Day Center for Justice, Chicago, Illinois

Durango Unido en Chicago – Federación de Duranguenses de México

St. Louis Interfaith Committee on Latin America, St. Louis, Missouri

Latin America Solidarity Committee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Harriet Tubman Center for Organizing, Detroit, Michigan

Minnesota Cuba Committee

Hands Off Honduras, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota

Bay Area Latin America Solidarity Coalition (BALASC), California

Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas, California

Coalition for Peace and Democracy in Honduras, Los Angeles, California

Koreatown Immigrant Worker Alliance (KIWA), Los Angeles, California

Carolina Interfaith Task Force on Central America, Raleigh, North Carolina

Friends of Chilama Sister City Project, Crystal Lake, Illinois

Chicago-Cinquera Sister City Project, Chicago, Illinois

Madison/Arcatao Sister City Project (MASCP), Madison, Wisconsin

Binghamton-El Charcón Sister City Project, Binghamton, New York

Lawrence-El Papaturo Friendship Committee, Lawrence, Kansas

Patria Morazán, Houston, Texas

Border Agricultural Workers Project, El Paso, Texas

Nonviolence International

Hemispheric Social Alliance

Ecumenical Committee of English Speaking Church Personnel (CEPRHI),  
Nicaragua