

URGENT ACTION

BODY OF ABDUCTED HONDURAN JOURNALIST FOUND

The dead body of Aníbal Barrow, a journalist who was abducted on 24 June, has been found following two weeks of searches by the Honduran authorities. Four individuals have been arrested, but a full and impartial investigation of the killing is still needed.

On 9 July, the Honduran authorities found the body of journalist **Aníbal Barrow** in Villanueva, northern Honduras, in a sugarcane field. The investigators located the body in this area after a witness, reported to be among those involved in the abduction, decided to collaborate with them in the days previous to the discovery. Aníbal Barrow's body had been mutilated; his clothes had been buried nearby along with other personal objects, such as bank cards. The authorities were able to fully identify the body the next day, after forensic tests had been carried out.

On 5 July the police arrested four people in connection with the abduction of Aníbal Barrow. According to reports, the police are also looking for additional suspects. It is not known whether the killing and abduction were related to Aníbal Barrow's profession. The authorities need to fully investigate the case in order to establish all the circumstances and motivation of the killing.

Please write immediately in Spanish, English, or your own language:

- Calling for an independent, thorough and full investigation into the abduction and killing of Aníbal Barrow, with the results made public, and those responsible brought to justice;
- Urging the authorities to fully investigate whether the abduction and killing of Aníbal Barrow, including to find out if it was in reprisal for his work as journalist;
- Calling on the authorities to take all necessary steps to prevent attacks on journalists and to provide all necessary measures of protection when they are at risk of attack.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 AUGUST 2013 TO:

Intervening Committee at Public

Prosecutor's office /

Srs. Comisión Interventora del Ministerio
Público

Ministerio Público

Lomas del Guijarro

Avenida República Dominicana,

Edificio Lomas Plaza II

Tegucigalpa,

Honduras

Fax: +504 2221 5662

Twitter: @MP_Honduras

**Salutation: Dear Members of the
Intervening Committee / Srs. de la
Comisión Interventora**

Director of National Police

Sr. Juan Carlos Bonilla

Director de la Policía Nacional

Secretaría de Estado en el Despacho de
Seguridad, Plantel Casamata, subida al
Picacho,

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Fax: +504 2220 1711

**Salutation: Dear Director / Estimado
Sr. Director**

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 165/13. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR37/004/2013/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Aníbal Barrow, a journalist for Globo TV in Honduras, was abducted on 24 June. According to reports, at approximately 3.45pm, the vehicle which Aníbal Barrow was travelling in, alongside two relatives and a driver, was intercepted near the Olympic Stadium in San Pedro Sula by a white Mitsubishi pickup truck with no licence plates. Three heavily-armed men reportedly got into the journalist's vehicle and forced his relatives and the driver to get out of the car. They then drove off with Aníbal Barrow.

After news of his abduction came to light, the authorities began a search for Aníbal Barrow in the area surrounding San Pedro Sula. At 6.30pm, Aníbal Barrow's empty vehicle was found near a sugarcane field on the city's outskirts. The authorities have reported that there was a bullet hole in the right-hand side front window, next to the passenger seat, and there were traces of blood inside.

According to the National Commissioner for Human Rights, approximately 29 journalists have been killed in Honduras since January 2010 when the current government took office.

Journalists defending human rights play a critical role in exposing human rights violations that otherwise would remain shrouded in secrecy. In Honduras Amnesty International has documented an increase in the number of death threats and attacks against journalists and bloggers, as affirmed in the regional report Transforming Pain into Hope – Human Rights Defenders in the Americas, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR01/006/2012/en>

Name: Aníbal Barrow
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 165/13 Index: AMR 37/005/2013 Issue Date: 12 July 2013