

# URGENT ACTION

## HONDURAN MEDIA WORKER MURDERED IN HIS HOME

**On 11 April Carlos Mejía was stabbed to death in his home, in El Progreso municipality, Honduras. He had been threatened in the past in apparent connection with his work on projects for the promotion of human rights and social justice.**

**Carlos Hilario Mejía Orellana** was head of marketing for Radio Progreso and a member of the Reflection, Investigation and Communication Team (Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación, ERIC). Radio Progreso and ERIC are projects of the Society of Jesus (Compañía de Jesús) working for the promotion of human rights and social justice in Honduras through information, education and communication.

On the evening of 11 April Carlos Mejía was found dead in his home with multiple stab wounds, in the El Progreso municipality, department of Yoro, Honduras. Following the Honduran 2009 coup d'etat and many subsequent instances of harassment, intimidation and threats, 18 members of Radio Progreso were granted precautionary protective measures by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). On 27 May 2011 the IACHR ordered the Honduran State to take all necessary measures to protect Carlos Mejía's life and physical integrity. However, the authorities have failed to investigate any of the multiple threats received by the Radio Progreso media workers to date or to provide them with effective protection measures.

### Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- ✓ Call on the authorities to carry out a prompt, full, exhaustive and independent investigation into the killing of Carlos Mejía and to bring those responsible to justice;
- ✓ Urge the authorities to fully implement the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights precautionary measures ordered in favour of members of Radio Progreso, in line with the beneficiaries' wishes;
- ✓ Remind the authorities of their obligation to ensure that journalists and human rights defenders are able to carry out their activities safely and without fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 MAY 2014 TO:

#### Attorney General

Señor Oscar Chinchilla Banegas  
Ministerio Público, Lomas del Guijarro  
Avenida República Dominicana  
Edificio Lomas Plaza II  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Fax +504 2221 5667  
Twitter: @MP\_Honduras

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General /  
Señor Fiscal General**

#### Minister of Interior

Señor Arturo Corrales  
Secretaría de Estado en el Despacho de  
Seguridad  
Aldea el Ocotal, Antiguo Local de la  
Academia Nacional de Policía ANAPO  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Email: comunicacionCNDS@gmail.com

**Salutation: Señor Ministro del Interior/  
Dear Minister of Interior**

And copies to:

Radio Progreso and ERIC

Joaquín A. Mejía Rivera  
Area de Investigación del ERIC y Radio  
Progreso  
Email: jamejarivera@eric-sj.org

### Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Journalists defending human rights play a critical role in exposing human rights violations that would otherwise remain shrouded in secrecy. Amnesty International has documented a significant number of death threats and attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and bloggers in Honduras, as affirmed in the regional report Transforming Pain into Hope: Human Rights Defenders in the Americas, published 7 December 2012, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR01/006/2012/en>.

In this context, in early 2013 the previous government introduced a draft law to Congress to establish a mechanism for the protection of journalists and human rights defenders. This draft, however, was never approved. Similarly, a national human rights plan of action was adopted by the previous government but never implemented. In January 2014, newly elected President Juan Orlando Hernandez took office. In the face of the serious human rights situation, it is critical that the new government urgently implements a national human rights plan of action and establishes a state mechanism to provide effective and comprehensive protection for journalists and human rights defenders.

Name: Carlos Hilario Mejía Orellana (m); members of Radio Progreso, (both)  
Gender m/f: both

UA: 92/14 Index: AMR 37/005/2014 Issue Date: 17 April 2014