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Americas - Honduras

Mounting censorship

When media bosses censor their own journalists

28 May 2014

Reporters Without Borders condemns the censorship of *Suelto la lengua* (Talk freely), a programme that *Canal 6* TV has not broadcast since 15 May without any explanation from its CEO, Paul Misselem. Presented by **Jorge Burgos** and **Emy Padilla**, the programme is openly critical of President Juan Orlando Hernández's government.

"We call on Canal 6 to resume broadcasting *Suelto la lengua* without delay," said Camille Soulier, the head of the Reporters Without Borders Americas desk. "Pressure from the authorities cannot justify depriving Hondurans of a programme that is in the general interest."

Burgos and Padilla have repeatedly been censored by *Canal 6*'s own management. Their programme, which has often linked banks and commercial enterprises to corruption, has upset some of the TV station's shareholders.

Padilla reports that, in the middle of recording one programme, she was passed a note from the *Canal 6* production staff ordering her not to mention a certain subject. *Suelto la lengua* often has guests who involved in human rights, especially the heads of NGOs and grass-roots organizations.

This climate of censorship affects other independent journalists as well. **Ricardo Guerra** of *Actualidad Porteña*, a programme broadcast by *Teleport Cortés*, a regional TV station based in the northern city of Puerto Cortés, has described the problems in this region to Reporters Without Borders.

"We are censored by the heads of the media groups," he said. "This is a new phenomenon. We cannot cover all subjects. Some are off-limits because they jeopardize the economic interests of these media as regards certain companies. Independent journalists who propose a story about the Puerto Cortés authorities are often told 'We don't cover that'."

Guerra also said he often received threats or insults by telephone that are directly linked to what he has reported on the air.

Honduras is ranked 129th out of 180 countries in the [2014 Reporters Without Borders press freedom index](#).

Logo: Ricardo Guerra, *Teleport Cortés*

Slideshow: Jorge Burgos and Emy Padilla, *Canal 6*

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