

PUBLIC

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Fear for safety

3 December 2001

HONDURAS

**Christian Callejas (m), Human rights defender  
Members of his family**

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Christian Callejas, who has been subjected to death threats and harassment, as a result of his work as a regional coordinator for the non-governmental organisation, *Comité para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos en Honduras*, (CODEH), Committee for the Defence of Human Rights

As a human rights defender, Christian Callejas has submitted various complaints to the judiciary on behalf of the victims who have suffered torture, abuse and illegal detention at the hands of the police. Until June, he worked in the CODEH regional office in San Pedro Sula. While there, he and his family were continuously harassed and on one occasion, his wife, Alejandra Patricia Borjas Bourdeth was followed by a black Toyota pickup truck with darkened windows.

Christian Callejas is now working at the CODEH office in the Atlantic Coast region. Since the beginning of October, he has either received threatening telephone calls or has had shots fired outside his home. On 8 November, both forms of intimidation were used, as when he answered his mobile telephone, a gun shot was fired outside his house. More recently on 20 November, he received a threatening phone call from an officer of the *Dirección General de Investigación Criminal*, (DGIC), General Directorate of Criminal Investigations who referred to himself as "*una persona demasiado violenta*", a very violent person. The officer stated that he would find and shoot Christian, if he did not leave the officer's brother alone and cease pursuing a case Christian had filed against him.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Human rights defenders have faced threats, attacks and criminal charges as a result of their work. Certain government authorities have attempted to discredit their activities by making public statements alleging that they protect criminals. Members of CODEH have in the past been victims of serious human rights violations. In 1997, Ramon Custodio Lopez and his family were put under heavy security force surveillance and were the target of intimidation (See UA 266/97, AMR 37/02/97, 12 August 1997). In 1998, Ernesto Sandoval Bustillo was shot dead by unidentified men as he walked to the CODEH offices in Santa Rosa Copan (See UA 50/98, AMR 37/02/98, 13 February 1998).

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of human rights defender Christian Callejas and his family;
- asking the authorities what measures, deemed appropriate by Christian Callejas and his family, they are going to take to guarantee the safety of the family;
- calling for an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats against Christian Callejas and his family, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- expressing support for the work of CODEH on behalf of victims of human rights violations, emphasizing the need for appropriate protection to be given to all those involved;

- reminding the authorities of the right of human rights defenders to carry out their activities without any restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties.

**APPEALS TO:**

President

S.E. Carlos Roberto Flores Facussé  
 Presidente de la República de Honduras  
 Casa Presidencial  
 Boulevard Juan Pablo Segundo  
 Palacio José Cecilio del Valle  
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Telegrams: Presidente, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

**Fax: + 504 234 1484**

**Salutation: Sr. Presidente/Dear President**

Attorney General

Dr. Roy Edmundo Medina  
 Fiscal General de la República  
 Fiscalía General, Ministerio Público  
 Edificio Castillo Poujol, 4a Avda,  
 Colonia Palmira, Boulevard Morazán  
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Telegrams: Fiscal General, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

**Fax: + 504 221 5667**

**Salutation: Sr. Fiscal General/Attorney General**

General Directorate of Criminal Investigation

Dr. Wilfredo Alvarado  
 Director de la Dirección General de Investigación Criminal (DGIC)  
 Dirección de Investigación Criminal  
 5ª avenida, 11 calle  
 contiguo a Celocías Palermo  
 Comayaguala, Honduras

**Telegrams: Director de Investigación Criminal, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

**Fax: + 504 220 0554**

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

President of the Supreme Court

Lic. Oscar Armando Avila Banegas  
 Presidente de la Corte Suprema de Justicia  
 Colonia Miraflores  
 Boulevard de las Fuerzas Armadas  
 Palacio de Justicia  
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Telegrams: Presidente de la Corte Suprema, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

**Fax: + 504 233 6784/7921**

**Salutation: Presidente de la Corte/Dear President of the Supreme Court**

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights Organisation

Comité para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos en Honduras (CODEH)  
 Apartado Postal 3189

Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
**Fax: 504 237 9238**  
**E-mail: codeh@optinet.hn**

and to diplomatic representatives of HONDURAS accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 January 2002.