

Mr Fredrik REINFELDT, Prime Minister

Mr Carl BILDT, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Swedish Presidency of the European Union

Brussels, August 26, 2009

## Recommendations to the EU regarding Honduras

Two months have passed since the coup d'état and the breakdown of constitutional order in Honduras. Since then, there have been numerous reports of serious human rights' violations in the country. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)<sup>1</sup>, Amnesty International<sup>2</sup>, a delegation of various non-governmental organisations including CIFCA<sup>3</sup> and the Honduran human rights organisations CIPRODEH<sup>4</sup> and COFADEH<sup>5</sup> are among those reporting human rights violations such as; disproportionate and excessive use of force being used by the police and military to repress legitimate and peaceful protests; arbitrary arrests and detentions; gender based violence against female protesters; violations of the right to freedom of opinion, expression, assembly and association; arbitrary application of curfew measures; increased restrictions on the ability of human rights defenders and media workers to move freely.

In view of this urgent situation the European civil society platforms APRODEV and CIFCA would like to underline some key points for the Swedish EU presidency to consider prior to the COLAT meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.

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<sup>1</sup> IACHR. *Preliminary Observations on the IACHR visit to Honduras*. August 21, 2009.

<http://www.cidh.oas.org/Comunicados/English/2009/60-09eng.Preliminary.Observations.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Amnesty International. *Honduras: human rights crisis threatens as repression increases*. August 19, 2009. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AMR37/004/2009/en/0bef3d1b-ed50-46bc-8bb3-3f8ca416016c/amr370042009eng.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Misión internacional de observación sobre la situación de los derechos humanos en Honduras. *Gobierno de facto viola derechos humanos en Honduras*. August 7, 2009.

<http://www.cifca.org/INFORME%20FINAL%20-%20MISION%20INTERNACIONAL%20DE%20DERECHOS%20HUMANOS%20A%20HONDURAS.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Centro de investigación y promoción de los derechos humanos (CIPRODEH). *Reporte de violaciones a derechos humanos después del golpe de estado político-militar del 28 de junio de 2009*. July 17, 2009.

[http://www.ciprodeh.org.hn/Publicaciones/reportes\\_ciprodeh.pdf](http://www.ciprodeh.org.hn/Publicaciones/reportes_ciprodeh.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Comité de familiares de detenidos desaparecidos en Honduras (COFADEH) [www.cofadeh.org](http://www.cofadeh.org)

1. We welcome the decision of the Swedish presidency and the EU to freeze diplomatic relations and budget support to Honduras, and the declarations condemning the coup. The deteriorating human rights situation in Honduras requires further action by the international community. We therefore **call upon the EU to strongly condemn the serious human rights violations** carried out by the illegal de facto government, and to support efforts to find a political solution in order to restore democracy and the respect for human rights.
2. We also **call upon the EU not to recognize elections called by the de facto government**. Elections called by an undemocratic regime could by no means be considered democratic and the current human rights situation of serious violations of the right to freedom of opinion, expression and assembly also make free and democratic elections impossible.
3. We welcome the information received in a meeting between our organisations and the Swedish MFA on August 18, confirming that the position of the Swedish government is that the EU **should not continue negotiations for an EU-Central America Association Agreement** before the constitutional order in Honduras is restored and negotiations can be carried out with the Central American region as a whole. Nevertheless, we are concerned by the fact that this position is not shared by all EU member states. We encourage the Swedish government to work for an EU consensus in line with the Swedish position, as expressed above. The coup in Honduras has already had a negative impact on Central American regional integration, and an EU decision to continue negotiations with parts of the region would further hamper this process.

Yours sincerely,



Rob van Drimmelen  
General Secretary APRODEV  
Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe



Martin Wolpold-Bosien  
President CIFCA  
Copenhagen Initiative for Central America