

October 4, 2012

Reports Received by CCR of Human Rights Violations in Honduras In June, July and August 2012

Introduction

Since the June 2009 *coup d'état* in Honduras the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) and its international partners have received and compiled an alarming number of reports of human rights violations. This summary of human rights violations in June, July and August 2012 follows monthly reports CCR has compiled since December 2011. As was the case in CCR's previous summaries, it is clear that Honduran state actors, namely the Honduran National Police and the Honduran military were directly involved in some of the abuses listed below. This list is not comprehensive, as numerous human rights violations go undocumented, unreported or uncollected.

Violence against LGBT community

On June 26, 86 members of the United States Congress composed and signed a letter addressed to the State Department expressing their concern about human rights violations against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons in Honduras. In the letter, the legislators expressed their concern that "recent reports [have] indicated that members of the LGBT community have increasingly been victims of violent hate crimes," and that many of these cases, such as that of Walter Trochez, a high profile member of the opposition movement and renowned human rights defender and one of 70 LGBT murder victims since the June 2009 coup, have yet to be resolved.¹

Targeting of Journalists and Visit by Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression

The Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the U.S. House of Representatives held a hearing on June 25 to discuss worldwide threats to media freedom. The hearing featured expert testimony on the subject and featured Honduras as a conflict country for journalists. Congressman James P. McGovern specifically cited his concern about press freedom in Honduras, stating that journalists there "who oppose the current government or offend powerful interest groups are consistently targeted with death threats and assassinations. A pervasive culture of impunity facilitates this violence."² Since the June 2009 *coup d'état*, Honduras has been one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a journalist. According to Reporters without Borders (RSF), as of August 16, 2012, 25 of the 30 journalists killed in the country over the past decade have died since former president Manuel Zelaya's ouster.³

¹ Letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, June 26, 2012, *available at*:

http://witnessforpeace.org/downloads/LGBT_Honduras_Letter_Congress.pdf.

² "Worldwide Threats to Media Freedom," U.S. House of Representatives Hearing Transcript, June 25, 2012, *available at*:

http://tlhrc.house.gov/docs/transcripts/2012_7_25_Media%20Freedom/Media_Freedom_06_25_12.pdf

³ Reporters Without Borders, "Another Journalist Slain, Special Mechanism for Protecting Journalists Announced," August 16, 2012, *available at*:

<http://en.rsf.org/honduras-another-journalist-slain-special-16-08-2012,43232.html>.

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression Frank La Rue visited Honduras on August 7-14, he noted that since current President Lobo has been in office, only one of the 22 cases of murdered journalists has ended in sentencing. Mr. La Rue characterized the high levels of violence against the press as being unacceptable and inhuman and he cited lack of investigations by authorities as one of the principal causes of the violence.⁴ Indeed, on August 10, during La Rue's visit to Honduras, 34-year-old journalist José Noel Canales Lago was shot and killed in Tegucigalpa.

La Rue released a preliminary report on his official visit to Honduras on August 14 where, in addition to condemning violent acts against a free press he specifically argues against the proposed "Model Cities," stating that they will displace populations and infringe upon the constitutional rights of the people. He also highlights the importance of protecting the civil liberties of minority and indigenous groups in Honduras, specifically citing their right to protest peacefully, which the police have infringed upon.⁵ Garifuna rights group La Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña (OFRANEH) released a statement on August 20 supporting La Rue's findings.⁶

DEA Involvement in Massacre of Indigenous Persons

CCR and allied organizations are particularly concerned about the involvement of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents in a massacre that occurred in May in the Moskitia region. On May 11, 2012, four boat passengers- two said to be pregnant by their families and local villagers- were shot dead and others were injured during a counternarcotics operation that involved, and by some reports was directed by, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents.⁷ Following the massacre, the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) and Rights Action conducted an independent investigation which found evidence suggesting that the DEA directly supervised the operation that resulted in the shooting deaths.⁸ The United States has not undertaken an investigation into the killings, instead deferring to the Honduran government. The Associated Press (AP) reported on the Honduran government's investigation on September 7: "An official probe determined that two victims of a shooting during a joint U.S.-Honduran anti-drug operation were not pregnant and none of the gunfire that killed anyone came from a law-enforcement helicopter, a government investigator said Friday,

⁴ "U.N. envoy tells Honduras to better protect its journalists," *Reuters*, August 15, 2012, *available at*: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/08/14/uk-honduras-journalists-idUKBRE87D15J20120814>.

⁵ United Nations Development Programme report, "Observaciones y recomendaciones preliminares al final de su visita oficial a la Republica de Honduras," August 14, 2012, *available at*: <http://www.undp.un.hn/Relator%20Onu.pdf>.

⁶ Statement by OFRANEH, "Ciudad Modelo, el Informe del Relator de la libertad de Expresión y el silencio de las Sirenas," August 20, 2012, *available at*: <http://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2012/08/20/ciudad-modelo-el-informe-del-relator-de-la-libertad-de-expresion-y-el-silencio-de-las-sirenas/>.

⁷ Report by the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) and Rights Action, "Collateral Damage of a Drug War," August 2012, *available at*: <http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/honduras-2012-08.pdf>.

⁸ *Id.*

contradicting witness statements and claims by human rights groups.”⁹ The Center for Constitutional Rights has called for a U.S. investigation into this incident.

Update on U.S. Aid Conditions

The U.S. Congress has placed conditions on the State Department’s police and military aid to Honduras.¹⁰ Under these conditions, the State Department, prior to disbursing 20 percent of the aid, must report to Congress on actions the Honduran government is taking to 1) implement policies to protect freedom of expression and association, and due process of law; and 2) investigate and prosecute in the civilian justice system, in accordance with Honduran and international law, military and police personnel who are credibly alleged to have violated human rights; and the Honduran military and police are cooperating with civilian judicial authorities in such cases. On August 8, 2012 the State Department released its first report, which certified that the Honduran government is meeting these human rights requirements.¹¹ However, the State Department report lacked any mention of how specific cases of human rights violations are being investigated, let alone prosecuted. Indeed, much of the legislative and funding measures that are reported in the August 8 report refer to the time period before the funding requirements were put into place and the report failed to demonstrate how these measures have led to an improvement in accountability for human rights abuses by the police and military. The report also stated that the State department was “carefully limiting assistance to special Honduran law enforcement units, staffed by Leahy-vetted Honduran personnel who receive training, guidance, and advice directly from U.S. law enforcement, and are not under Bonilla’s direct supervision.” Police Chief Bonilla is linked to death squad activity, including being tried for a murder, during the last decade. The State Department reports establishing a working group to examine the allegations and CCR looks forward to the working group’s findings.

Incidents with Police and/or Military Involvement:

- June 12 [*violent eviction and detention*]: 18 members of the San Miguel Peasants Movement (MOCSAM) were violently evicted from lands they argue has been illegally claimed by the Honduran Sugar Company. This was the third such eviction against MOCSAM during this particular campaign.¹²
- June 27 [*journalist detained*]: Members of the National Police arrested and detained cameraman Edwin Murillo while he was filming the discovery of a dead body in the Comayagüela Lempira

⁹ “Honduras shooting probe: No fatal fire from copter,” *Associated Press*, September 7, 2012, *available at*: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iUhUpdknbUVrimNN2KwpAd7EIEFg?docId=4f8bd1e76ed3463aa8432f61fcbbf9b>

¹⁰ Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012, Pub. L. no. 112-74 (2011).

¹¹ U.S. State Department, “Report on the Government of Honduras’ Protection of Human Rights and the Investigation and Prosecution of Security Services Personnel Credibly Alleged to Have Violated Human Rights,” *available at*: <http://justf.org/files/primarydocs/120808hn.pdf>

¹² “Ni agua les deja pasar la policía a 18 detenidos del Movimiento Campesino de San Manuel Cortés,” *Defensores en Línea*, June 12, 2012, *available at*: http://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2063%3Ani-agua-les-deja-pasar-la-policia-a-18-detenidos-del-movimiento-campesino-de-san-manuel-cortes&Itemid=171&page=2

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neighborhood of Tegucigalpa. Pablo Matamoros, news coordinator of the television program for which Murillo was filming, reported that police beat his colleague during his detainment.¹³

- July 19 [*kidnapping, assassinations*]: Four Garifuna persons (Vidal Cacho, Jimmy Colón Centeno, Orvin Roberto Amaya and Pablo Castillo) were kidnapped and assassinated by four armed men dressed as Honduran police officers in Triunfo de la Cruz. According to Garifuna activist Miriam Miranda, one of the victims had more than 25 bullet wounds.¹⁴
- July 20 [*intimidation, attacks*]: During a protest in Lempira against the Honduran Congress called by a federation of six teachers unions, police reportedly beat many of the demonstrators, with dozens needing medical attention. Teachers movement leader and member of Association of Secondary Teachers of Honduras (COPEMH), Javier Castillo, reported being beaten by police and army officials and later followed by an unknown car.¹⁵
- July 20 [*forced evictions, attacks, injuries*]: Police violently evicted families from Merriam Altos on July 20. A pregnant young woman, Amber Lagos, was badly beaten by police and taken to the hospital with the threat of miscarriage. Other reported beatings were of one-year-old Isis López, 17-year-old Alex Fernando Perdomo, and Santos Perdomo, an elderly man. Those evicted have since been intimidated by unknown persons on motorbikes and wearing masks.¹⁶
- July 24 [*forced evictions, injuries*]: Several people were injured in confrontations between the National Police and farmers in Los Laureles as police attempted to evict the farmers.¹⁷
- August 2 [*murder*]: Transgender woman Barbarita (born Marlon Javier Jiménez Alemán) was found dead with bullet wounds to her face and head. The day before, her family reported that she was taken from her home by four persons claiming to represent the National Agency of Criminal Investigation (Dirección Nacional de Investigación Criminal). On August 24, four men were arrested for the crime.^{18 19}

¹³ “Agentes policiales detienen y secuestran a camarógrafo,” *C-LIBRE*, June 28, 2012, available at:

<http://www.clibrehonduras.com/main/noticias/agentes-policiales-detienen-y-secuestran-camar%C3%B3grafo>

¹⁴ “Raptan y luego asesinan a tres garífunas en La Ceiba,” *El Heraldo*, July 19, 2012, available at:

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Raptan-y-luego-asesinan-a-tres-garifunas-en-La-Ceiba>

¹⁵ Statement by Frente Nacional de Resistencia Popular, “COFADEH denuncia persecución policial a dirigente magisterial en Lempira,” July 20, 2012, available at:

http://www.resistenciahonduras.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4868:cofadeh-denuncia-persecucion-policial-a-dirigente-magisterial-en-lempira&catid=60:derechos-humanos&Itemid=244.

¹⁶ “Represión Coordinada: Desplazan policías a diferentes puntos del país para desalojar pobladores y campesinos,” *Defensores en Línea*, July 20, 2012, available at:

http://defensoresenlinea.com/cms/index.php/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2134:represion-coordinada-desplazan-policias-a-diferentes-puntos-del-pais-para-desalojar-pobladores-y-campesinos&catid=54:den&Itemid=171.

¹⁷ “Policia Nacional desaloja invasores de finca “Los Laureles” en Tocoa, Honduras,” *Olanchito Noticias*, July 22, 2012, available at: <http://www.twylah.com/OlanchitoNews/tweets/227047397514153985>.

¹⁸ Statement by The Organization of American States’ (OAS) Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), “IACHR Condemns the Murder of a Trans Woman in Honduras,” August 28, 2012, available at:

http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2012/109.asp

¹⁹ “Detienen cuatro sospechosos de crímenes contra comunidad gay,” *El Heraldo*, August 24, 2012, available at:

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Detienen-a-cuatro-sospechosos-de-crimenes-contra-comunidad-gay>

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- August 3 [*harrassment*]: Police officers entered Radio Progreso's offices in El Progreso and demanded to know the location of two farmers who had been speaking at a forum broadcast that day.²⁰
- August 15 [*forced eviction*]: Police and military agents evicted a group of approximately 150 farmers in El Progreso.²¹
- August 15-17 [*detention, murder*]: Honduran youth Herlin Lainez Edenilson Knight, his brother Wilmer Caballero Yoenis Lainez, Carlos Ponce, and an unnamed minor were arrested August 15 and released on August 16, when they went to a diner and were abducted by several uniformed but masked police officers. Their four bodies were found August 17 in the Cuyamel River and showed signs of torture. On August 21, the Attorney General of Honduras reported that 8 National Police officers were suspended and under investigation for the murders.²²
- August 21 [*forced eviction*]: Police evicted a group of farmers in Bajo Aguán from a protest at the Supreme Court.²³
- August 21 [*repression*]: Honduran riot police fired tear gas at protesting farmers in Tegucigalpa.²⁴
- August 22 [*detention, threats*]: 19 farmers were violently detained, subjected to threats, and held incommunicado after a protest.²⁵
- August 26 [*detention*]: Honduran authorities in Tocoa detained and later released Vitalino Álvarez, spokesperson for el Movimiento Unificado Campesino del Aguán (MUCA).²⁶

Incidents where Level of Police and/or Military Involvement is Unknown:

- June 7 [*assassination*]: Miguel Ángel Ramos Díaz, an active member of the FNRP and the Libre Party, and deputy director of the Technological Institute of Business Administration, was gunned

²⁰ "Honduran Police Harass Radio Station After Public Forum," *Indian Country Today*, August 12, 2012, available at: <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/08/12/honduran-police-harass-radio-station-after-public-forum-128442>. Additional citation: emails on file at CCR.

²¹ "Ejecutan segundo desalojo en cañera," *La Prensa*, August 15, 2012, available at: <http://www.laprensa.hn/Secciones-Principales/Honduras/Valle-de-Sula/Ejecutan-segundo-desalojo-en-cañera#.UFyo3rJITkd>.

²² "Suspenden a ocho policías en Honduras por muerte de cuatro jóvenes," *Telesur*, August 21, 2012, available at: <http://www.telesurtv.net/articulos/2012/08/21/suspenden-a-ocho-policias-en-honduras-por-muerte-de-cuatro-jovenes-2725.html>.

²³ "Desalojan a campesinos del Aguán de la Corte," *La Prensa*, August 21, 2012, available at: <http://www.laprensa.hn/Secciones-Principales/Honduras/Tegucigalpa/Desalojan-a-campesinos-del-Aguan-de-la-Corte#.UFyoB7JITke>.

²⁴ "Farmers clash with police in Honduras over right to bear arms," *NBC News*, August 22, 2012, available at: http://photoblog.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/08/22/13410446-farmers-clash-with-police-in-honduras-over-right-to-bear-arms?lite.

²⁵ Statement by COFADEH, "En Peligro Integridad Física de Detenidos," August 22, 2012, available at: <http://quotha.net/node/2373>. See also, "Detenciones en cadena contra campesinos del Bajo Aguán," *Otramérica*, August 23, 2012, available at: <http://otramerica.com/radar/detenciones-en-cadena-contra-campesinos-del-bajo-aguan/2303>.

²⁶ "Honduras: Denuncian detención de portavoz de Movimiento Unificado Campesino," *Associated Foreign Press*, August 26, 2012, available at: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g-Xb6Xmf9ZU36erg2baBF41UefJg?docId=CNG.1e89ed12c801e583b685b1720c0b092d.4a1>.

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down by men in a black vehicle in San Pedro Sula while walking with his 12-year-old son. Ramos' son escaped uninjured.^{27 28}

- June 11 [*death threats*]: Marlon Escoto, Minister of Education, received death threats via text message. The threats came after Escoto suspended 14 of 18 departmental heads of the Ministry of Education, whose appointments he found had not followed legal procedure.²⁹
- June 12 [*assassination*]: Joel Orellana, a member of the FNRP and the Bo El Estadio Collective, was shot dead.³⁰
- June 13 [*kidnapping attempt*]: Bessy Duarte successfully escaped a kidnapping attempt, though she was robbed in the process. Duarte's son is the well-known resistance member and musician Pavel Nuñez.³¹
- June 13 [*attempted assassination*]: Two members of COPINH's executive committee, Juan Vásquez and Sotero Chavarría, were shot at while driving in a vehicle. The attack caused the COPINH vehicle to crash, though neither passenger was seriously injured.³²
- June 17 [*repeated death threats*]: The Tribu de San Francisco de Locomapa Tolupán indigenous community denounced repeated death threats, which their members have received during their struggle to restrict timber machinery from entering their lands.³³
- June 21 [*illegal eviction*]: A court ordered the eviction of 40 villagers accused of occupying privately owned land in the Jamastrán Ruano Valley. Evicted farmers pointed to the regional head of the National Agrarian Institute's prior confirmation that the lands in question belong to the national government, and are not privately owned.³⁴
- June 24 [*repression of opposition*]: National Front of Popular Resistance (FNRP) member Juan Ramon Flores's home was raided just days before the three-year anniversary of the coup. Libre Party documents and a computer were taken. Flores had been previously targeted on multiple occasions. One year earlier he had escaped from kidnapers.³⁵

²⁷ "Pandilleros habrían acabado con la vida del subdirector de Intae," *La Tribuna*, June 8, 2012, available at:

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/06/08/pandilleros-habrian-acabado-con-la-vida-del-subdirector-de-intae/>

²⁸ "Acribillan subdirector del Intae de San Pedro Sula," *La Tribuna*, June 7, 2012, available at:

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/06/07/acribillan-subdirector-del-intae-de-san-pedro-sula/>

²⁹ "Ministro de Educación de Honduras denuncia amenazas a muerte," *El Heraldo*, June 11, 2012, available at:

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Pais/Ministro-de-Educacion-de-Honduras-denuncia-amenazas-a-muerte>

³⁰ "Asesinan a otro dirigente de la resistencia hondureña," *ACODEHU*, June 12, 2012, available at:

<http://www.acodehu.com/?p=1884&lang=es>

³¹ "Kidnapping attempt against the mother of a member of Café Guancasco, Pavel Núñez," June 14, 2012, available at: <http://quotha.net/node/2307>

³² Statement by El Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras (COPINH), "Denuncia Urgente! Atentado contra compañeros del COPINH," June 13, 2012, available at:

<http://copinh.org/article/denuncia-urgente-atentado-contra-companeros-del-co/>

³³ Statement by Pueblo Tolupán de Locomapa, Yoro/Movimiento Amplio por la Dignidad y la Justicia (MADJ), "Carta Pública," June 17, 2012, available at: <http://www.honduraslaboral.org/article/carta-publica/>

³⁴ "Emiten orden de desalojo contra campesinos de Danlí," *La Tribuna*, June 21, 2012, available at: <http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/06/21/emiten-orden-de-desalojo-contra-campesinos-de-danli/>

³⁵ "Miembro del FNRP y del Movimiento 28 de junio denuncia reiteradas amenazas y hostigamientos," *Defensores en Línea*, June 28, 2012, available at:

http://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2086%3Amiembro-del-fnrp-y-del-movimiento-28-de-junio-denuncia-reiteradas-amenazas-y-hostigamientos&Itemid=159

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- June 24 [assassination]: Gunmen in a black vehicle shot and killed Jenny Concepción Reyes Izaguirre, a teacher and leader in both the Libre Party and the Progressive Resistance Movement (MRP). Also wounded in the attack were Reyes Izaguirre's son and her husband Arturo Ramírez, also a Libre Party leader.^{36 37}
- June 26 [assassination]: The body of Carlos Jese Portillo Yanes, 20 years old, was found inside a black plastic bag in Cortés. The previous Sunday he had been at an event organized by the National Front of Popular Resistance (FNRP), after which his family had not seen him.³⁸
- June 28 [attempted assassination]: Bonifacio Muñoz Troches was shot in the back while working in a cornfield as part of a larger land struggle.³⁹
- July 2-6 [kidnapping, assassination]: Farmer Gregorio Chávez Arando disappeared on July 2 from his land. On July 6, his body was found buried on the Paso Aguán estate, which is under the control of the businessman and palm oil producer Miguel Facussé.^{40 41 42}
- July 5 [intimidation, harassment]: Prominent LGBT activist and Director of Arco Iris Donny Reyes was pursued by an armed man riding a motorbike. Honduran authorities have not provided him with protection despite the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights granting him precautionary measures.⁴³ In 2007, Honduran police beat and arbitrarily detained Reyes in a crowded jail cell where he was gang raped for six hours, allegedly at the encouragement of a police officer.
- July 6 [threats]: German ambassador Karl Henz reported that a delegation of eight Austrian and German reporters had been victims of threats.⁴⁴
- July 6 [intimidation]: Journalist David Corea expressed concern for his safety after he was told that the Tocoa mayor, Héctor Rolando Hernández, reportedly stated that local mining projects would move forward even if there was bloodshed and ordered the surveillance of Corea. Corea,

³⁶ "Pistoleros matan a profesora, su esposo resulta herido," *La Tribuna*, June 26, 2012, available at:

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/06/26/pistoleros-matan-a-profesora-su-esposo-resulta-herido/>

³⁷ "Ultiman a maestro en anillo periférico," *El Herald*, June 25, 2012, available at:

<http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Ultiman-a-maestra-en-anillo-periferico>

³⁸ "Miembro del FNRP era joven hallado dentro de una bolsa," *La Tribuna*, June 26, 2012, available at:

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/06/26/miembro-del-fnrp-era-joven-hallado-dentro-de-una-bolsa/>

³⁹ "El COPINH denuncia atentado contra la vida del compañero Bonifacio Muñoz Troches y la impunidad en este caso," *Defensores en Línea*, July 4, 2012, available at:

http://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2100%3Ael-copinh-denuncia-atentado-contra-la-vida-del-companero-bonifacio-munoz-troches-y-la-impunidad-en-este-caso&Itemid=171&page=2

⁴⁰ Statement by Rights Action, "Honduras: More forced disappearances in the Aguán," July 5, 2012, available at:

<http://rightsaction.org/action-content/honduras-more-forced-disappearances-aguan>

⁴¹ Statement signed by 11 international organizations, "International Orgs Warn: The State of Honduras Must Guarantee Judicial Independence, Impartiality," July 17, 2012, available at:

<http://www.fian.org/news/news/international-orgs-warn-the-state-of-honduras-must-guarantee-judicial-independence-and-impartiality>

⁴² "Three murders of campesinos in one week," *Quotha*, July 8, 2012, available at: <http://quotha.net/node/2339>

⁴³ Statement by Amnesty International, "Honduras: LGBT activist's life in danger: Donny Reyes," August 17, 2012, available at: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR37/010/2012/en>

⁴⁴ "Periodistas extranjeros se sienten amenazados," *La Tribuna*, July 7, 2012, available at:

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/07/07/periodistas-extranjeros-se-sienten-amenazados/>

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coordinator of the *La Verdad* news programme on Radio Stereo Linda and a reporter for the Centro de Noticias de Colon (CNC), is investigating the links between the mayor and two mining companies in the region.⁴⁵

- July 7 [assassination]: Jacobo Erazo López, MUCA (Movimiento Unificado Campesino de Aguán) member and ex-director of the Tranvía business, was kidnapped and shot to death on his way to work by unknown assailants.^{46 47}
- July 8 [assassination]: MUCA (Movimiento Unificado Campesino de Aguán) member José Luis Dubón Diaz was murdered in la Ceibita, near the Lempira settlement.^{48 49}
- July 8 [assassinations]: Radio journalist Adonis Felipe Bueso Gutiérrez and two of his cousins, Francisco Ireata López and Miguel Ángel Gutiérrez Coto, were forced into a car by unknown men in Villanueva. Their bodies were found on the street a half hour later; all three were killed by gunshots.⁵⁰
- July 11 [attack]: Television reporter Selvín Martínez was shot at for the second time in less than two months but escaped unhurt. Reporters without Borders has requested government protection for him and his family.^{51 52 53}
- July 18 [kidnapping, attacks]: Dina Lili Orellana, member of la cooperativa La Trinidad, was kidnapped by several hooded men. She was beaten and when the attackers attempted to rape her, she escaped.^{54 55}

⁴⁵ “Journalist under surveillance after reporting on mining project anomalies,” *C-Libre/IFEX*, July 10, 2012, available at: http://www.ifex.org/honduras/2012/07/10/corea_amenaza/

⁴⁶ Statement signed by 11 international organizations, “International Orgs Warn: The State of Honduras Must Guarantee Judicial Independence, Impartiality,” July 17, 2012, available at: <http://www.fian.org/news/news/international-orgs-warn-the-state-of-honduras-must-guarantee-judicial-independence-and-impartiality>

⁴⁷ “Three murders of campesinos in one week,” *Quotha*, July 8, 2012, available at: <http://quotha.net/node/2339>

⁴⁸ Statement signed by 11 international organizations, “International Orgs Warn: The State of Honduras Must Guarantee Judicial Independence, Impartiality,” July 17, 2012, available at: <http://www.fian.org/news/news/international-orgs-warn-the-state-of-honduras-must-guarantee-judicial-independence-and-impartiality>

⁴⁹ “Three murders of campesinos in one week,” *Quotha*, July 8, 2012, available at: <http://quotha.net/node/2339>

⁵⁰ “Honduran radio journalist murdered,” *The Guardian*, July 16, 2012, available at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/greenslade/2012/jul/16/journalist-safety-honduras>

⁵¹ “Honduran radio journalist murdered,” *The Guardian*, July 16, 2012, available at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/greenslade/2012/jul/16/journalist-safety-honduras>

⁵² “RSF pide protección para el periodista de JBN Selvín Martínez y su familia,” *Terra USA*, July 20, 2012, available at: <http://noticias.terra.com/internacional/europa/rsf-pide-proteccion-para-el-periodista-de-jbn-selvin-martinez-y-su-familia,8b179594d15a8310VgnVCM20000099cceb0aRCRD.html>

⁵³ “Honduran television reporter fears for life after identifying suspect who tried to kill him,” *University of Texas Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas*, July 19, 2012, available at: <http://knightcenter.utexas.edu/blog/00-10806-honduran-television-reporter-fears-life-after-identifying-suspect-who-tried-kill-him>

⁵⁴ “Denuncian rapto de campesina en el Bajo Aguán,” *Conexihon.info*, July 20, 2012, available at: <http://conexihon.info/noticia/derechos-humanos/conflicto-agrario-y-minero/denuncian-rapto-de-campesina-en-el-bajo-aguan>

⁵⁵ “Represión campesina en SB es en todo el País,” *Defensores en Línea*, July 21, 2012, available at: http://www.defensoresenlinea.com/cms/index.php?view=article&catid=54%3Aden&id=2136%3Arepresion-campesina-en-sb-es-en-todo-el-pais&tmpl=component&print=1&page=&option=com_content&Itemid=171

centerforconstitutionalrights

on the front lines for social justice

- July 26 [*assassination*]: Israel García, member of el Movimiento Campesino Recuperación del Aguán (MCRA), was shot and killed by a long-range rifle.^{56 57}
- July 27 [*attacks*]: An armed group attacked families associated with el Movimiento Campesino Recuperación del Aguán (MCRA). No injuries were reported.⁵⁸
- July 28 [*attacks, injuries*]: Farmers and members of el Movimiento Auténtico Reivindicador Campesino del Aguán (MARCA) Eldin Noel Ortiz, Jimmy Burgos Tobías, Santos Eliseo Pavón, Gilberto López, and Jorge Nájera were shot at and injured by three unknown assailants.⁵⁹
- July 29 [*assassination*]: Evaristo Lopez, member of el Movimiento Auténtico Reivindicador Campesino del Aguán (MARCA), was killed in a hit-and-run incident while riding his motorcycle. Campesino organizations have classified his death as highly suspicious.⁶⁰
- August 3 [*attempted murder*]: Unidentified gunmen opened fire on journalist José Encarnación Chinchilla's house, injuring one of his sons. Chinchilla has since sought asylum from the United States.⁶¹
- August 10 [*assassination*]: Journalist Jose Noel Canales was shot to death on his way to work. His body was found inside a pickup truck.^{62 63}
- August 13 [*assassination*]: Human rights activist and member of Frente Amplio Popular en Resistencia (Faper) José Marcos Ávila Maradiaga was shot 9 times outside of a drugstore in the neighborhood of La Popular 1 in Comayagua. His family claims that he could have been murdered for political reasons.⁶⁴
- August 17 [*threats, intimidation*]: Roberto García, contributor to Radio Progreso, and environmentalist Cesar Alvarenga were threatened for opposing an Arizona mining project. Gunmen went to Alvarenga's offices brandishing weapons and left a threatening note for García and Alvarenga. Additionally, lawyer and activist Gloria Vásquez Pérez, who has been subjected to threats for months, entered a collective taxi and was threatened by the driver and another person aboard, who searched her bag.^{65 66}

⁵⁶ *Id.*

⁵⁷ "Honduras: mataron a otro campesino en el Valle del Aguán," *Observador Global*, August 22, 2012, available at: <http://observadorglobal.com/honduras-mataron-a-otro-campesino-en-el-valle-del-aguan-n52173.html>

⁵⁸ *Id.*

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ "HONDURAS: Alerta máxima en el Bajo Aguán," *La Rel-UITA*, July 30, 2012, available at: http://www.rel-uita.org/agricultura/palma_africana/alerta_maxima_en_el_bajo_aguan.htm

⁶¹ Statement by Reporters Without Borders, "Son wounded in shooting attack on journalist's home, no let-up in threats," August 6, 2012, available at: <http://en.rsf.org/honduras-son-wounded-in-shooting-attack-on-06-08-2012,43170.html>. See also, "Honduran radio reporter's son shot," *The Guardian*, August 6, 2012, available at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/greenslade/2012/aug/07/journalist-safety-honduras>.

⁶² "Honduran journalist shot dead," *The Guardian*, August 15, 2012, available at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/greenslade/2012/aug/15/journalist-safety-honduras?newsfeed=true>

⁶³ "Killing of Honduran Journalist a Sign of Continued Danger for Media," *Freedom House*, August 2012, available at: <http://www.freedomhouse.org/article/killing-honduran-journalist-sign-continued-danger-media>

⁶⁴ "Ultiman activista de Derechos Humanos," *La Tribuna*, August 14, 2012, available at:

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/08/14/ultiman-activista-de-derechos-humanos/>

⁶⁵ "More threats and attacks on human rights activists," *Reporters without Borders (RSF)*, August 23, 2012, available at: <http://en.rsf.org/honduras-more-threats-and-attacks-on-human-23-08-2012,43275.html>

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on the front lines for social justice

- August 21 [assassination]: Angel Pérez, member of the Movimiento de Recuperación del Aguán (MARCA) was killed in Tocoa by a person riding a motorcycle while walking down the street in the Fabio Ochoa neighborhood.⁶⁷
- August 22 [assassination]: Juan de Dios Sáenz, president of la Juna Directiva Central del Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (SITRAUNAH), was found murdered.⁶⁸
- August 27 [assassination]: Julio César Casaleno, who worked in the press office of the transit police, was shot to death by two unidentified men.^{69 70}
- August 27 [assassination, injured]: José Braulio Díaz López, Secretary of Tranvía/la Empresa Asociativa Campesina de Producción (EACP) and member of MUCA was murdered. Mario Roberto Hernández was injured in the attack on López.⁷¹
- August 27-29: Between the dates of August 27 and 29, the following incidents occurred in the Bajo Aguán region.
 - [assassination]: Husband and wife Yelsi Javier Duarte Alcerro and Karla Carolina Velásquez were murdered while sleeping in their house in Sabá when two gunmen entered and opened fire.
 - [injured]: An unnamed woman was injured.
 - [assassination]: A man with no identification died from violent head wounds in the neighborhood of San Isidro in Tocoa.
 - [injured]: A 15-year-old was shot in Tocoa and taken to the hospital.
 - [injured]: María Elena Peña, José Manuel García, and Rogelio Moreno López were injured when their home was subject to a drive-by shooting.
 - [injured]: MUCA vehicle was shot at with machine guns and overturned, wounding farmer Daniel Sosa.⁷²
- August 31 [threats, intimidation]: Journalist Alex Roberto Sabillón Chávez sought protection from la Fiscalía de Derechos Humanos after several months of receiving threats from an unknown individual.⁷³

⁶⁶ "Honduras: Nuevas amenazas contra defensores de los derechos humanos," *Radio Tierra*, August 23, 2012, available at: <http://www.radiotierra.com/node/4796>

⁶⁷ "Matan a otro campesino hondureño en el conflictivo valle del Aguán," *Milenio*, August 22, 2012, available at: <http://www.milenio.com/cdb/doc/noticias2011/3604371c5c91951eb11f9c4d1563d8a4>

⁶⁸ "En pozo malacate encuentran asesinado al presidente del Sitraunah," *El Heraldo*, August 23, 2012, available at: <http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Un-hijo-principal-sospechoso-en-asesinato-del-presidente-del-Sitraunah>

⁶⁹ "Police Press Agent Murdered in Honduras, Investigators Looking for Gunmen," *Hispanically Speaking News*, August 31, 2012, available at: <http://www.hispanicallyspeakingnews.com/notitas-de-noticias/details/police-press-agent-murdered-in-honduras-investigators-looking-for-gunmen/18193/>

⁷⁰ "Matan a subinspector de tránsito en colonia Cerro Grande," *El Heraldo*, August 28, 2012, available at: <http://www.elheraldo.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Matan-a-subinspector-de-transito-en-Tegucigalpa>

⁷¹ *Id.*

⁷² "Recrudece violencia en el Bajo Aguán: 4 muertos," *La Tribuna*, August 29, 2012, available at: <http://www.latribuna.hn/2012/08/29/recrudece-violencia-en-el-bajo-aguan-4-muertos/>

⁷³ "Comunicadores piden protección a Fiscalía," *La Prensa*, August 31, 2012, available at: <http://www.laprensa.hn/Secciones-Principales/Sucesos/Comunicadores-piden-proteccion-a-Fiscalia#.UGBwQq7YH3J>