

Rights Action
April 17, 2011

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- Two new documentary film news pieces, by Jesse Freeston
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COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS FIGHTING TO SURVIVE [IN HONDURAS]

13 April 2011

<http://www.rsf.org/honduras-community-radio-stations-still-13-04-2011,40023.html>

Unidentified arsonists set fire to the home of Teresa Reyes and Radio Faluma Bimetu director Alfredo López at midnight on 7 April, in the latest in a long list of attacks on the personnel and installations of this community radio station (known in Spanish as Radio Coco Dulce), based in Triunfo de la Cruz, in the Atlantic coast municipality of Tela.

The mouthpiece of the country's Garifuna (Afro-Honduran) community, Radio Coco Dulce has been attacked repeatedly since the June 2009 coup d'état. The attacks have intensified since the start of 2010, when its premises were ransacked and torched, but they have never been properly investigated and remain unpunished.

Reporters Without Borders and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC-ALC) reiterate their appeal to the Honduran authorities to lose no time in investigating the recent attacks on the station's members. The international community must urge the Honduran government to protect all of this community radio station's rights, including the right to free expression.

Harassment of Radio Coco Dulce resumed again during last January's local elections, when several of its members were threatened or were the target of unjustified criminal proceedings, although the Inter-American

Commission on Human Rights has asked Honduras to take precautionary measures to protect its members.

Radio Coco Dulce has always defended the rights of Triunfo's Garifuna community, including the right to keep its coastal land, which has been threatened by expropriation for major tourism development projects by a group of local politicians and entrepreneurs.

The frequent attacks on Radio Coco Dulce members and the failure to punish the threats and acts of violence against it constitute a serious violation of the Triunfo community's right to free expression and reflect a desire of the part of the local authorities to silence the station.

SAD ANNIVERSARY FOR LA VOZ DE ZACATE GRANDE

It is in this climate of heightened tension that La Voz de Zacate Grande, a community radio station on the Pacific Coast island of Zacate Grande, will be marking the first anniversary of its creation tomorrow.

A week ago, the prosecutor's office in the nearby town of Amapala ordered the capture of eight leaders of the local peasant organization ADEPZA, of which La Voz de Zacate Grande is the mouthpiece. Several of those named in the arrest order are contributors to the radio station and the charges, which are several months old, directly concern its activities.

The authorities appear to be reluctant carry out the arrests on Zacate Grande island for fear that the local population will demonstrate in support of the station's contributors, who are however liable to be arrested whenever they leave the island, above all when they report to the court in Amapala, which they are supposed to do every two weeks.

A meeting of community radio stations is to be held today to mark the anniversary.

Reporters Without Borders and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters - Latin America and the Caribbean (AMARC-ALC) call on the Honduran authorities to stop the harassment of community radio stations and to respect their right to free speech. They also urge the

authorities to take whatever security measures are necessary to ensure that there are no problems at tomorrow's AMARC meeting in Honduras.

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**REPORT FROM LAND OCCUPATIONS IN POST-COUP HONDURAS:
Poor farmers are taking land from agribusiness that supported the
2009 military coup--and paying with their lives**

(March 31, 2011. 9:46 minutes)

http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=6513

**STUDENTS BATTLE POLICE AT HONDURAN UNIVERSITY:
Students and teachers defend against police attack on resistance
movement at Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras**

(April 1, 2011, 4:02 minutes)

http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=6535

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**LETTER FROM: Zenaida Velasquez, sister of Ilse Velasquez,
a Honduran teacher recently killed by the military-backed regime in
Honduras**

LETTER TO: the Honorable Member of Congress Nancy Pelosi

Dear Representative Nancy Pelosi:

Right now I am in Honduras, my country of birth. I came here due to an emergency - bad news ... My youngest sister, Ilse Ivania Velasquez Rodriguez, a dedicated teacher, with a major in 'Special Education', who worked for more than 30 years educating hundreds of children, perhaps even thousands of children and adults, was assassinated by the police forces under the regime of Porfirio Lobo Sosa, an illegitimate administration supported by the U.S. Administration under President Obama, and especially by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Mrs. Clinton has provided support to this criminal regime by sending lobbyists such as Lani Davis, Otto Reich, and other criminals like them, in the Obama Administration.

My sister was assassinated by the repression that continues happening in Honduras since the Coup d'Etat that happened on June 28, 2009, against the democratically elected President Jose Manuel Zelaya Rosales.

The teachers were the first group to oppose the coup in Honduras, and because of this, this horribly repressive regime, supported by the U. S. government, has taken revenge against the Teacher's Union, and against their conquests of many years, known as the 'Teacher's Statute' {Estatuto del Docente}, sort of their Union's contract.

My sister wanted to retire this year, but when she started the process, she was told that she needed to be on a waiting list as well as other more than two thousand teachers, because there was no money in their National Institute of Teacher's Retirement Fund. This Fund has been ransacked by the previous and current illegal regimes presided by Roberto Micheletti and now by Porfirio Lobo, who has militarizing the INPREMA (Acronym in Spanish for the Teacher's Retirement Fund).

The teachers peacefully demonstrated in front of INPREMA to protest its militarization. There was a siren that went off indicating that the demonstration would be repressed; the teachers lifted their arms to indicate that their demonstration was pacific. The repressive police force and a specialized batallion known as COBRAS, ignored the message of peace shown by the teachers and started shooting tear-gas bombs 'made in USA' and firing water laced with chemicals from huge tanks and very potent hoses at the demonstrators.

The police shoot the tear-gas bombs with projectiles, and they do it directly at the people's bodies, or up in the air, which has the same effect, because everything that goes up has to come down. The tear-gas bombs have a warning message indicating they should not be fired directly at people's bodies.

My sister tried to escape from the area when a tear-gas bomb hit her in the head; she fell unconscious on the ground. A car belonging to a local

media company was also trying to escape from the area in which was difficult to see anything because it was fogged by the gases. This car ran over my sister's body, on the right side of her body, when she was lying unconscious on the ground, and contributed to my sister's death, but the original cause of her death was the repression.

The illegal regime of Porfirio Lobo, as well as the Human Rights Representative at the American Embassy, Jeremy D. Spector, have started a campaign of mis-information stating that the death of my sister was due simply to a car accident.

As a U. S. citizen residing in the Bay Area in California, I want to ask you, Representative Nancy Pelosi, to do whatever you can to stop the support of Porfirio Lobo's regime in Honduras, and to stop the repression, assassination, incarceration, illegal detentions, torture and killings of the Honduran people.

The Teachers are fighting for their legitimate rights! Please do not send more economic and military aid to the illegal regime of Porfirio Lobo who is only continuing a coup d'etat regime.

Thank you very much for your contribution to stop the killings of many innocent people in Honduras.

Respectfully yours,

Zenaida Velasquez
San Jose, California Resident

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WHAT TO DO – MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS for HONDURAS' PRO-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

To make a tax-deductible donation for community based organizations in Honduras' pro-democracy movement working to defend human rights and the environment and to eradicate poverty and re-found their nation-state, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

UNITED STATES: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887

CANADA: 552 - 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS: <http://rightsaction.org/contributions.htm>; or go to: www.rightsaction.org. (Credit card donations can be done anonymously)

FOR DONATION OF STOCK: contact info@rightsaction.org. (Stock donations can be done anonymously – have your stockbroker contact info@rightsaction.org)

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, MORE INFORMATION???

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Thank-you.

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