

Rights Action  
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April 13, 2014

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## **Another Murder In the ‘Murder Capital of the World’**

### **Carlos Mejia Killed**

Radio Progreso has reported that Carlos Mejia, a member of its staff, was murdered last night in El Progreso, Honduras. In 2009, Carlos had received precautionary measures from the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights due to threats that he had received. Radio Progreso issued this statement: "Carlos was a beneficiary of precautionary measures by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and therefore we demand that the State of Honduras through the relevant institutions investigate the facts and that this crime does not go unpunished."

Links:

<http://www.tiempo.hn/portada/noticias/honduras-matan-a-gerente-de-mercadeo-de-radio-progreso>  
<http://radioprogreso.hn.net/index.php/comunicaciones/noticias/item/850-hoja-de-prensa>  
<http://www.proceso.hn/2014/04/12/Caliente/Matan.a.gerente/84947.html>

### **Murder Capital of the World**

According to a new study by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Central America is the region with the second highest homicide rate worldwide with 26 people killed per 100,000 inhabitants (Southern Africa has 30/100'000).

As a country, Honduras continues to rank first in the UNODC's report with a rate of 90.4/ 100,000.

The UNODC's head of the analysis division says that the problem has to be tackled more directly than before "guaranteeing an inclusive police force" and the study also brings to light a "strong relation between a low homicide rate and economic development as well as a low level of income inequality."

Link: <http://www.un.org/spanish/News/story.asp?NewsID=29184>

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### **What to do?**

Americans / Canadians: Keep on, keep on, keep on sending copies of this information, and your own letters, to your politicians (MPs, Congress members and Senators) ... and media. Since the June 2009 military coup, that ousted the last democratically elected government, Honduras has become the 'Murder Capital of the world'. Repression has reached the levels of the worst years of the 1980s.

Since 2009, the U.S. and Canadian governments have legitimized a succession of repressive regimes. North American companies and investors, and "development" banks (World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank) have increased business activities in African palm production, maquiladora sweatshops, privatized "model cities", tourism and mining. The Honduran regime remains in power due in large part to its political, economic and military relations with the U.S. and Canada and the "development" banks. Across Honduras, community based organizations in the pro-democracy movement need considerably more human rights accompaniment, funding, media attention on the harms and violations and education and activism in Canada and the U.S.

**Contact:**

Member Of Parliament:

<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>

Congress: <http://www.house.gov/> to get info for your member of Congress, and call: 202-224-3121

Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/> to get contact for your Senator, and call: 202-224-3121

**Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)**

To support civil society groups in Honduras and Guatemala, working courageously for human rights, justice, the environment and community controlled development, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

United States: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887

Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

Credit-Card Donations (Canada & U.S.): <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

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