

**AMNESTY
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**UN Human Rights Council
Sixteenth session, 28 February – 25 March 2011**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

HONDURAS

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes Honduras's voluntary pledge to initiate a process of consultation on a national human rights plan, with the involvement of civil society.¹

Mr. President,

At least ten journalists were murdered last year in Honduras and scores of human rights defenders suffered violent attacks and threats. We therefore welcome Honduras' support of recommendations to take effective steps to protect journalists and human rights defenders, as well as its commitment to implement the precautionary measures issued in favor of human rights defenders by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.² Given that these recommendations relate to the personal safety and security of individuals currently at risk, we urge the government to implement these without delay.

Amnesty International has repeatedly expressed concern at the increasing levels of violence experienced by members of the LGBT community and the high levels of impunity for crimes against them. We therefore welcome the support by Honduras of recommendations to strengthen the investigation of crimes committed against members of the LGBT community and to prosecute the perpetrators.³ We encourage Honduras to implement these recommendations in consultation with the LGBT community.

¹ A/HRC/16/10, paragraph 85 (a)

² Ibid, paragraphs 82.29-82.33 (Austria, Canada, Ireland, Germany, France).

³ Ibid, paragraphs 82.35-82.36 (Ireland, USA).

Mr. President,

Amnesty International documented an upsurge in violations of human rights following the *coup d'état* in June 2009 when police and security forces used excessive force against protestors. We have expressed concern to the authorities at the weak efforts thus far to hold perpetrators to account and to ensure victims' rights to truth and reparation. Acceptance by Honduras of recommendations to ensure full and transparent investigations into these grave violations and reparation to victims is a welcome first step that must be followed by concrete action to ensure justice.⁴

We are disappointed, however, that Honduras has rejected the recommendation to drop disciplinary proceedings against the judges who opposed the *coup d'état*.⁵ We urge Honduras to continue to explore options to support and implement this important recommendation in due course.

Thank you, Mr. President.

⁴ Ibid, paragraphs 82.84-82.90 (Sweden, Czech Republic, Germany, Ecuador, Spain, Argentina, Netherlands)

⁵ Ibid, paragraph 83.11 (Slovakia)