



Brussels, 29th of January, 2010.

Mrs. Catherine Asthon

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Spanish President of the European Union

Mr. Karel de Gucht and Mrs. Benita Ferrero

EC Trade Commissioners

C.C. Member States of the European Union and meps.

The undersigned international civil society networks of development cooperation and human rights organisations would like to express some concerns with regards to the communiqué on Honduras issued by the High Representative of Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union on the 27th of January, and in view of the announcement that delegates of the Porfirio Lobo government have been invited to participate next week in Brussels in a preparatory meeting to resume the negotiations for an Association Agreement between the EU and Central America:

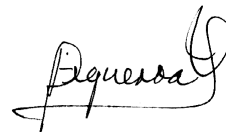
1. We share the desire for a peaceful and prosperous future for Honduras and support the decision to contribute to the re-establishment of the constitutional and democratic order, as well as the process of national reconciliation. Nevertheless, we consider that with the Coup d'état in Honduras, there was a complete breakdown of the Rule of Law. The transfer of power to Mr. Lobo is therefore no guarantee for the reconstruction of the democratic institutionality, as demonstrated by the Congress' recent approval of an amnesty law.

2. With regards to the “*Agreement for National Reconciliation and Strengthening of Democracy*”, it is important to underline that this agreement does not represent the stance of the political and social actors of Honduras that opposed the coup d’état. Furthermore, the agreement was neither negotiated nor signed by President José Manuel Zelaya, but instead by the President of the Dominican Republic in order to ensure the deposed president’s departure out of Honduras, despite the non-fulfilment of the Tegucigalpa – San Jose Agreement of stronger political impetus.
3. We consider it imperative that Mr. Porfirio Lobo Soza shows his commitment to the re-establishment of democracy through affirmative actions such as: a declaration against the human rights violations committed by the coup regime and purging the State structures involved in the coup d’état (starting with the National Army, the Police, as well as the Supreme Court of Justice and the General Attorney’s Office). The return of Jose Manuel Zelaya as well as his closest associates to the country should be guaranteed as well as the call for a real national dialogue, not excluding any actors, and including the participation of the National Popular Resistance Front that opposed the coup d’ état, thus assuring the institutional restoration of the Honduran State.
4. Albeit an important step, the establishment of a Truth Commission is not sufficient. It is necessary to establish a mechanism for an autonomous and impartial judicial administration that can investigate and convict those responsible for the coup d’ état and the crimes perpetrated since the coup.
5. Taking the above into consideration, we consider it to be a premature and inconvenient moment to invite representatives of the government of Porfirio Lobo Soza to informal or formal meetings with view to the re-establishment of the negotiations of the Association Agreements between the European Union and Central America. As a consequence we urge that the EU should maintain the non-recognition of the government of Porfirio Lobo Soza and the sanctions imposed until the re-establishment of democratic order and national reconciliation be put into practice.

Yours Sincerely,



Souhayr Belhassen



Dilcia Figueroa

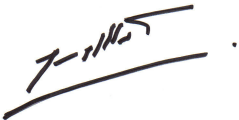
President

FIDH – International Federation of Human Rights



Martin Wolpold Bosien

Fian International



Luis Guillermo Pérez Casas

Executive Secretary

CIFCA – Copenhagen Initiative for Central America and Mexico



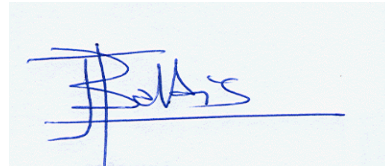
Rob van Drimmelen

General Secretary

APRODEV – Asociation of European Development Organisations associated to the World Church Council

Coordinator

Grupo Sur



Jorge Balbis

Executive Secretary of ALOP



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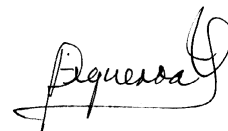
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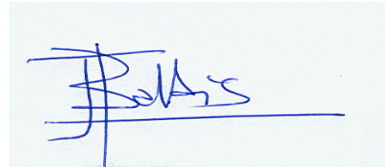
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