



Mr. Herman Van Rompuy

Permanent President of the European Union

Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Spanish President of the European Union

Mrs. Catherine Asthon

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-president of the European Commission

Mr. Karel de Gucht and Mrs. Benita Ferrero

EC Trade Commissioners

C.C. Member States of the European Union

Brussels, 19th of January 2010

Subject: On Honduras and the announcement to resume the negotiations of the EU-Central America Association Agreement.

Mr. President of the Council of the European Union

Mr. President in representation of the European Union

Mrs. High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Mr. and Mrs Commissioner

The undersigned organizations hereby address this letter to you in order to draw your attention to the following points in relation to the situation in Honduras and particularly in view of the announcement of a possible retaking of the negotiations of the EU- Central America Association Agreement in Brussels end of next February.

- 1.) We urge the European Union and its member states to uphold the sanctions on Honduras, both at the level of cooperation- save that directly targeting civil society and humanitarian aid- as well as the diplomatic sanctions, not allowing for any person tied to the coup d'état last June 28 to be allowed entry into the territory of the European Union.

- 2.) We also recall that the *de facto* government will not disappear with the illegitimate presidential transition this January 27. The Supreme Court of Justice, the General Attorney's Office, the National Commissioner for Human Rights, the National Police and the Army, as well as other State institutions have not only been involved in the coup d'état but also in the consequent human rights violations and more precisely the crime of political persecution, as reported to the International Criminal Court.
- 3.) We therefore demand that the abovementioned sanctions should be maintained and also applied to Mr. Porfirio Lobo Soza, who will assume the transition of the *de facto* government this January 27. Mr Lobo Soza was elected through an electoral process not recognised by the international community and flawed by the militarization of the country, the limitations of fundamental freedoms and under the perpetration of political persecution since the coup d'état. Not only did Mr. Lobo Soza refrain from condemning the coup d'état and the consequent human rights violations perpetrated. What is more, as the head of his political group in the Parliament and elected president he refrained from contributing to the reestablishment of democratic order and to the fulfilment of the Guaymuras/San Jose agreement that could have allowed for a government of national unity and reconciliation of the Hondurans. To the contrary he promoted amnesty to cover up the impunity of the crimes committed by the coup regime.
- 4.) Consequently, the European Union and its member states should not recognise the illegitimate government of Porfirio Lobo Soza to enter into power next January 2007. Furthermore, the possibility of amnesty should be discarded and a Truth Commission should be demanded in order to guarantee the rights of the victims to justice, to reparation and establish guarantees of non-repetition for the human rights violations.
- 5.) The European Union and the member states should refrain from giving any signs that a coup d'état could be legitimized through elections that did not guarantee the prior reestablishment of democracy and where the elected authorities themselves have been supporters or accomplices of the breach of democracy. This would set a regrettable precedence for Latin America, a region celebrating in 2010 the bicentenary of its independence and whose democratic construction has cost the lives and liberty of millions of persons.
- 6.) With this in mind, any decision to resume the negotiations of the EU – Central America Association Agreement seems contradictory to the foreign policy promoted by the European Union in favour of the respect for human rights, democratic values and regional integration. The situation in Honduras constitutes yet another reason to continue freezing the negotiations, allowing for more time to re-establish full democracy in the region as well as paying more attention to the social and environmental consequences of the said

Agreement. In addition, as long as the situation in the country persists, we consider that the establishment of economical sanctions should be contemplated as well as the suspension of Honduras from the SGP plus.

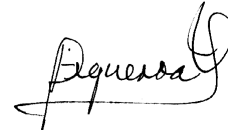
Yours Sincerely,



Souhayr Belhassen

Presidente

FIDH - Federación Internacional de Derechos Humanos



Dilcia Figueroa

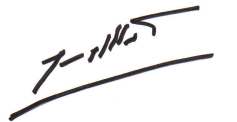
Coordinadora

Grupo Sur



Martin Wolpold Bosien

Fian Internacional



Luis Guillermo Pérez Casas

CIFCA - Iniciativa de Copenhague para América Central y México