



UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Mrs. Navanathem Pillay
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Geneva

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Geneva, 27th November 2009

The fundamental human rights and freedoms of the people of Honduras must be protected

Madame High Commissioner,

At the end of this week, the illegitimate government of Honduras plans to proceed with the election of a new president in a situation of illegality and repression.

The coup d'état carried out by the military on 8 June, ousting the democratically elected President, Mr. José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, and the legitimate government, has been massively and vigorously opposed by the people of Honduras who demand the restoration of democracy in the country. The demonstrating masses are being met with violence, arrests and repression by the army and police.

The coup has been condemned by the Organization of American States and by the international community as a whole. The refusal of the masters of the coup to respond positively to the regional and international efforts to restore democratic order and social peace and freedom in the country bodes ill for the future of Honduras, which under the Zelaya's government was making demonstrable economic and social progress.

Today, the democratically elected President, recognized by the international community, is isolated in the Brazilian embassy, which is surrounded by soldiers while the illegally installed de facto president, imposed by the military on the Honduran people, is surrounded by the powerful in the governmental palace. Today, the people who demand the return of their democratically elected president, and the restoration of democratic order suffer violations of the human rights and repression.

This is not an environment in which free and democratic elections can be held. We agree with President Zelaya that this electoral process is illegal and takes the country back to a period in South American history where coup d'état were the order of the day.

The fundamental human rights and freedoms of the people of Honduras are under severe threat. We would therefore like to know what action you, Madame High Commissioner, plan to take in regard to the illegal electoral process in Honduras.

Yours faithfully.

On behalf of MRAP-WILPF-CETIM
Gianfranco Fattorini
MRAP Permanent Representative