

July 2, 2009

Jose Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Dear Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso,

As civil society organisations, we are deeply concerned about the political crisis in the Republic of Honduras as a result of the coup d'état against the government of President José Manuel Zelaya Rosales on June 28th. This coup has brought an unconstitutional intervention in the duly constituted democratic government of Honduras and resulted in the violent kidnapping and enforced exile of the President. In the aftermath of this, we are daily witnessing increasing violation of human rights and repression throughout the country, particularly aggravated by the fact that yesterday the current unconstitutional and government of Honduras suspended five basic civil rights of citizens: the inviolable right of home, the freedom of association; arresting and detention of a person for more than 24 hours without a charge and freedom of movement in the country.

We are observing with concern that the Declaration of the Council of the European Union condemning "the military actions which were directed against democratically elected President Zelaya and part of his cabinet and have violated the constitutional order of Honduras", has not been followed by concrete actions from the EU Council.

We find it unacceptable that the Commission, under the current circumstances, had even considered continuing with the Round of Negotiations for an Association Agreement between EU and Central America scheduled for 6-10 July in Brussels.

Even if President Zelaya returns to his constitutional functions, the political situation in the region can be expected to remain fragile. We fear that in this context, a continuation of the negotiations for an Association Agreement might contribute to additional tensions to the region. Therefore, we demand that the negotiations for an Association Agreement between the EU and Central America are suspended indefinitely.

We are sending you enclosed:

1- **A letter signed by 72 civil society organisations and networks from Latin America and Europe urging the European Union and its Member States to act decisively on the condemnation of the brutal 'Coup d'état' perpetrated by the Honduran armed forces last 28th June.**

2- **The Declaration: Social movements from Latin America and Europe reject of negotiations of the European Union-Central American Association Agreement.** This Declaration has been signed by more than 100 organisations from civil society organisations and networks from Latin America and Europe and has been endorsed by 600 organisations who form part of the campaign "Water out of the Association Agreements". This Declaration has been presented to the Presidents of Central American Integration System (SICA) during their meeting in Managua on 20th May 2009.

Sincerely Yours,

On behalf of the signatories



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CC:

Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European Commissioner for External Relations
Mr. Jan Kohout, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
Mr. Carl Bildt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden
Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain