
Le Président
The President

Sr. Porfirio Lobo Sosa
Presidente de la República
Casa Presidencial
Boulevard Juan Pablo Segundo
Palacio José Cecilio Del Valle
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Re: Concerns regarding the killings of lawyers in Honduras over the past three years

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), which, through the national Bars and Law Societies of the Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area, represents more than 1 million European lawyers. In addition to membership from EU bars, it has also observer representatives from a further eleven European countries' bars.

The CCBE, through its Human Rights Committee, places great emphasis on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The CCBE is particularly concerned by the situation of human rights defenders in the world.

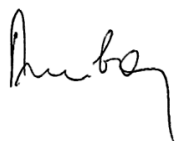
The CCBE writes to express its serious concerns over the killings of 74 lawyers in the past three years in Honduras. Especially worrisome is that, according to the Honduras College of Lawyers, these mass killings of lawyers have been executed with total impunity by their persecutors, illustrating a grave failure in the rule of law in Honduras.

The CCBE takes note that the investigation of these murders is currently being carried out by the authorities of the Honduras Bar Association (CAH) and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. The CCBE applauds the initiative from the president of CAH, Olvin Mejia, who agreed with the Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Ana Pineda, to join forces to carry out investigations in this regard.

It is with great expectations that the CCBE will follow the anticipated agreement between Ms Pineda and Mr Mejia, which hopefully will be signed shortly, to strengthen the role of the Human Rights Commissioner of Legal Professionals that will be appointed by the Bar Association.

The CCBE respectfully urges you to encourage and support this investigation, and to guarantee that lawyers in Honduras are able to conduct their professional duties in future without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions, in order to preserve the independence and integrity of the administration of justice.

Yours faithfully,



Marcella PRUNBAUER-GLASER

President