# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

# HONDURAS COFADEH

#### **ACTIVISTS UNDER INCREASING THREAT**

The Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH) is one of the country's main human rights organisations. Its work includes seeking justice for current human rights abuses by the security forces and 'disappearances' in the 1980s, and training local human rights activists.

COFADEH's brave staff members are at great risk and since 2011 the number and severity of incidents against them has intensified, with death threats, harassment and attacks. Female COFADEH members have also been threatened with sexual violence.

Despite an order from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Honduran authorities have failed to adequately protect COFADEH staff members and their families. Despite the danger, COFADEH continues its crucial work.

www.amnesty.org.uk/cofadeh

### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras (COFADEH) Barrio La Plazuela Avenida Cervantes, Casa 1301 Tegucigalpa Honduras

- Preferred language Spanish or English
- Salutation Dear Friends (Estimad@s amigas y amigos del COFADEH)
- Suggested message We stand in solidarity with you and admire all of your important work promoting and protecting human rights in Honduras. Best wishes (Les mandamos este mensaje en solidaridad y con mucha admiración por su valiosa labor de promover y proteger los derechos humanos en Honduras. Cordialmente).
- Additional information 30 November is COFADEH's 31st anniversary. Try to send cards with pictures of doves, COFADEH's symbol. Download a dove template from www.amnesty.org.uk/cofadeh

#### CAN I

- Send a religious card or message?
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- Include my name and address?
- Download the message in another language?

'Even though they want to cut off our wings, they won't be able to.' **Bertha Oliva, COFADEH founding member and coordinator** 

## Amnesty International

### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER TO:

Urge the President-Elect to endorse COFADEH's work, investigate the harassment and threats against COFADEH staff members, and fully comply with the orders of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

NB: Presidential elections take place in Honduras on 24 November, with the new President taking office in January 2014. Amnesty will forward your letter after the election result is known.

Write to: President-Elect of Honduras c/o Central America Team Amnesty International 1 Easton Street London WC1X 0DW

Salutation: Dear President-Elect

#### In your letter:

- Urge the President-Elect to publicly pledge her/his support for COFADEH and other human rights defenders in Honduras, and condemn all attacks against them.
- Call on her/him to ensure progress in investigating the threats and harassment against COFADEH members, that the results are made public and those responsible brought to justice.
- Urge her/him to fully comply with the protective measures ordered by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in consultation with COFADEH members.

#### **STAY INFORMED**

www.amnesty.org.uk/write

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