

national lawyers guild

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25 May 2010

Dr. Jorge Alberto Rivera Avilez
Presidente, Corte Suprema de Justicia
Magistrados de la Corte Plena
Honduras

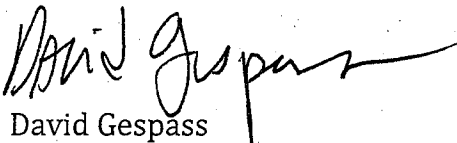
Honorable Jorge Alberto Rivera Avilez and Magistrates:

We write to express our deep concern over the disciplinary actions taken by your Court against the judges, **RAMÓN ENRIQUE BARRIOS, LUIS ALONZO CHEVEZ DE LA ROCHA, GUILLERMO LÓPEZ LONE**, public defender, **OSMÁN FAJARDO MOREL** and the Magistrate **THIRZA DEL CARMEN FLORES LANZA**, all members of the *Asociación de Jueces Para la Democracia*. It is our understanding that these professionals were exercising their universally recognized rights to free association and expression when they participated in peaceful demonstrations and denounced the ouster of President Zelaya last year.

The disciplinary actions taken by your Court, which could lead to eventual dismissal of these public servants, directly violate their rights to "immobility" and have a chilling effect on other members of the Honduran judiciary's ability to exercise their rights freely. This egregious and politically motivated violation of democratic principles, in particular the guarantee of an independent judiciary system, sets a dangerous precedent and hinders your institutional credibility and a return to peace and democracy in your country.

We respectfully request that you terminate the disciplinary procedures and respect the fundamental rights of all judicial employees and their organizations.

Sincerely,



David Gespass
President