

Statement by the National Popular Resistance Front to the OAS

The OAS (Organization of American States) will meet for its General Assembly on Friday, the 30th of July, as mandated by the Resolution agreed upon during its last Assembly in Lima, Peru, to address the Honduran crisis and decide whether conditions in the country allow for it to be readmitted to the Organization, from which it was expelled the 4th of July, 2009 as a result of the 28th of June coup that same year.

Through the Lima Resolution the member states instruct the Secretary General, Jose Miguel Insulza, to create a Special High- Level Commission in charge of visiting Honduras to diagnose if human rights, rule of law, and democratic-constitutional order have been fully reestablished by the Lobo Administration. The Commission will then inform the General Assembly about their findings and the General Assembly will make a decision whether to deny, postpone or allow readmission of the expelled member state. If the findings reveal that the conditions have improved, then the Assembly will probably decide to readmit Honduras, if they are not met, the readmission will be postponed until they are.

Conditions have clearly not improved in Honduras, where repression, persecution and systematic human rights abuses against Resistance leaders, popular movement leaders, journalists, judges, human rights activists, independent media, or anyone critical of the coup, have been documented by several independent and international human rights organizations and the OAS Inter American Human Rights Commission has made it clear through its many reports. During Lobo's administration, more than 10 journalists have been assassinated, as have many more members of the Resistance.

But the OAS Secretary General has turned a blind eye to this reality and has been pushing, with the help of the U.S. and regional allies, for a rushed readmission of Honduras. Furthermore the Lima Resolution has been ignored and the Special High Level Commission has not visited Honduras, where its findings would obviously discourage any prompt readmission.

Furthermore, during the 20th of July, 2010 SICA Presidential Summit in San Salvador, the Presidents of Central America, with the exception of President Ortega of Nicaragua, readmitted Honduras to the sub-regional organization (against its own rules, which specify the decision must be unanimous) and cynically praised Mr. Lobo's success in restoring democracy, the rule of law and safeguarding human rights, even if repression, violence and human rights abuses are still being documented.

Confronted by this imminent and false imposition, that would greatly damage our struggle by whitewashing the coup and strengthening the coup-monger's regime and impunity, **The National Popular Resistance Front** demands:

- 1) That the Lima Resolution's mandate be fully met by Secretary General Insulza, by organizing an exploratory visit of the Special High Level Commission to Honduras that should then report its findings to the General Assembly before any further decision on Honduras is made.
- 2) That the OAS takes the National Popular Resistance Front and its position into account before readmitting Honduras.
- 3) That the OAS acknowledges the ongoing human rights abuses and systematic repression and persecution that our people are subjected to in Honduras, as reports of IAHC, UN and several other human rights organizations have documented.
- 4) That the OAS helps to dismantle the coup-monger's total control of Honduran institutions and acknowledges that Honduras is still controlled by the same people who organized and held the coup.
- 5) That the OAS acknowledge that the Supreme Court, the Attorney General, the Ombudsman and the majority of the judicial and executive branches of government are still controlled by the coup-mongers and should be fully reformed.
- 6) That the OAS ensures that Ex President Zelaya, who has been appointed as Coordinator of the FNRP and is still in exile may return safely and with full rights.
- 7) That the OAS ensures that persecution against the Resistance members, judges critical of the coup and the former members of Ex President Zelaya's cabinet stops immediately.
- 8) That the OAS acknowledges that Mr. Lobo has himself declared that a coup took place on the 28th of June, 2009 and thus the only way to reestablish constitutional democracy in Honduras is through a National Constitutional Assembly.
- 9) That the OAS supports the return of democracy and safeguards human rights in Honduras, fighting the current state of impunity and absence of justice and holding the coup-mongers accountable for their crimes against our people.

The National Popular Resistance Front thus affirms:

- A) That we do not recognize Mr. Lobo as our President, the campaign and election process through which he was elected are not valid or legitimate since they were organized by the de facto regime and under their repression and censorship, that they were thus not free or fair, there were no legitimate international observers (OAS, UN, EU) and a majority of the population abstained.
- B) That we demand the creation of a National Constitutional Assembly to return our country to constitutional-democratic order.
- C) That we do not recognize Mr. Lobo's unilateral appointment of a Truth Commission and we only recognize the True Commission organized by the Human Rights Platform.
- D) That there is no reconciliation or unity government and that the military is in full control of strategic posts as are the coup-mongers.

- E) That Mr. Lobo's representative to the OAS negotiations is the same person who represented the de Facto dictator Roberto Michelletti, Mr. Arturo Corrales.
- F) We denounce and condemn the manipulation of information that has been pressuring for a prompt readmission of Honduras without conditions being met.
- G) That we are being persecuted and repressed by the Lobo regime.