

## **Statement by the Latin American & Caribbean Network for Democracy in response to the political crisis in Honduras**

June 29, 2009

The Latin American & Caribbean Network for Democracy, comprised of activists and civil and social organizations that promote democracy in our countries and in our region, expresses its profound concern for the grave political crisis that the Republic of Honduras has experienced over the past few days.

Considering that the purpose of our network is to provide support and solidarity to groups and individuals in situations where democracy is in danger, we reject and condemn all actions aimed at breaking the constitutional order of the Republic of Honduras and the violent removal of the democratically elected President.

Likewise, we reject the anti-democratic positions promoted by the Honduran Government that led to this crisis, particularly the practice of changing the constitutional rules to favor the President. We ask for the cessation of persecution and imprisonment of political actors without the opportunity of a legal trial.

The Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy also expresses its categorical rejection of any form of military intervention in the countries of our region. The use of violence and assault in our history has left behind only blood and backsliding.

The Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy vehemently calls on all actors in the Honduran conflict to guide themselves with rationality and moderation, to promote a peaceful, not violent, solution based on national dialogue free from external interference. This solution should be respectful of democratic institutions, the rule of law, the Constitution of Honduras, the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights, and the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

We respectfully urge the Organization of American States to use its good offices to listen to all parties involved in this conflict and, through a sincere and respectful dialogue, to help find a solution that does not weaken, but rather strengthens, the state institutions of the Republic of Honduras, and ensures that the peace, freedom, and defense of human rights, to which our Honduran brothers and sisters aspire, prevail.

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We support the urgent call of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to have the democratic order restored in Honduras, and that respect be given to human rights, the rule of law, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the unrestricted right to free expression.

Finally, in these difficult moments, we send our message of solidarity to the Honduran people, and especially to those civil society organizations whose arduous work in favor of the highest ideals, principles, and practices of democracy have been and continue to be fundamental to the strengthening and consolidation of democracy in the Republic of Honduras.

**Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe para la Democracia**

[www.democracialatinoamerica.org](http://www.democracialatinoamerica.org)