

COMMUNIQUE: Hunger Strike, indignados respond to corruption

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As Human Rights organizations we have accompanied a permanent process of observation and vigilance of the universal right to protest and respect for the human dignity of the young people engaging in a hunger strike since June 22, 2015 in the zone of the Casa Presidencial; we have been with them for five days.

We communicate to the national and international community:

1.- We confirm the disproportionate deployment of the military and blatant violation of the human rights of the young hunger strikers on the part of the Armed Forces and the National Police of Honduras. They have been hermetically isolated, placing them in a situation of vulnerability and restricting their rights; converting the protest site into a type of military zone, used in times of armed conflict.

2.- We denounce that the young hunger strikers and the citizens that accompany them in solidarity, have been objects of threats and intimidation on the part of the military and police; as well as shock troops that act clandestinely. On June 23, at 2:00 a.m. an incident occurred resulting in the injury of two people by groups that operate openly and apparently with the complicity of state security forces, placing them in a situation of threat and intimidation with the intent of forcing them to abandon the protest and intimidating citizens that accompany them.

3.- We denounce that in the area surrounding the protest, armed actors dressed as civilians, are collecting information on people, taking photographs of those who accompany the young hunger strikers; as well as human rights defenders carrying out our role as observers. In addition, there

is a military-police check point which reviews visitors to the zone as well as in adjacent areas. There has been persecution and insult directed at visitors leaving the zone and they have been followed.

4.- We denounce and demand that as additional youth join the hunger strike, they be able to enter the zone to access the portable bathrooms. The military and police have gone to the extreme of negotiating the exchange of accompaniers that leave the zone for hunger strikers entering to access the bathrooms, as if it were a situation of hostage exchange.

5.- We are grateful for the timely attention of doctors in solidarity with the hunger strikers, who have informed us that the seven youth leading the struggle against corruption, calling for the installation of a CICI-H, remain stable psychologically, biologically, mentally, socially and spiritually, with minor health problems that have been resolved.

Given this, as human rights organizations, we DEMAND, that the current government and its party:

a.- Respect the demands of Honduran society that protests in different ways, demanding the RIGHT TO TRUTH and the RIGHT TO JUSTICE; the indignation of the youth and society calls for a rapid clarification and prosecution of the grand theft of the funds of the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS) and of all cases of CORRUPTION that squandered over 7 billion Lempiras from the social security system. Do not run campaigns to dilute and distract public attention.

b.- Do not manipulate civil society in a perverse manner with the intent of a cover up by convening a one way dialogue with a fixed agenda that was not determined thru a prior process of consent; and in which only organizations that receive funding from the government will participate in.

These organizations do not represent us as human rights defenders and members of civil society and they DO NOT REPRESENT the interests of neither the youth nor the society that is indignant and protests the acts of corruption and impunity.

We exhort the Indignant Honduran Society to defend its right, take back and reassert the objective articulated in the marches of “Las Antorchas” – the installation of an International Commission Against Impunity in Honduras (CICIH), in response to the failure of the institutions of justice.

We ask the national and international community to remain on permanent alert for repeated acts to delegitimize and destroy institutionality on the part of the governing political class in order to protect itself by deepening of the culture of impunity.

As of this moment, we will emit periodic updates on the human rights situation in the restricted access zone.

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