

Press Release

Pax Christi International
Condemns Military Coup in Honduras and Calls for Dialogue

Pax Christi International condemns the military actions that ousted President José Manuel Zelaya Rosales from Honduras on 28 June 2009 and extends its thoughts and prayers to people of Honduras. As an international faith based peace movement and network, Pax Christi is concerned about the violence that has already occurred and urges movement toward a peaceful solution.

On Sunday, 5 July 2009, Zelaya attempted to return to Honduras but was stopped by the military. One supporter of Zelaya was killed by security forces at the airport where Zelaya tried to land. Pax Christi International strongly condemns this action and warns that a peaceful solution is needed to prevent the escalation of violence.

In order for a peaceful solution to develop, open dialogue must occur. Both the supporters of the interim government and the supporters of the ousted President Zelaya have their grievances. However, through open dialogue, both groups should find common interests that could be the basis for a peaceful compromise. In their statement of 4 July 2009, the Honduran bishops' conference was calling for such a dialogue.

A peaceful resolution to this vatile situation needs to address the needs of the poorest citizens of Honduras and to respect human rights. If the violence escalates, the most vulnerable individuals will experience the impacts from the violence most severely. Pax Christi International advocates that the international community and the leaders of Honduras act swiftly to ensure that a peaceful solution is soon developed.

Brussels, 8 July 2009
2009-0477-en-am-JW