



Committee on International Justice and Peace

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3160

WEBSITE: WWW.USCCB.ORG/JPHD • FAX 202-541-3339

October 21, 2009

Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, SDB
Archbishop of Tegucigalpa
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of Honduras

Your Eminence,

I am writing to follow up on the letter the President of our Conference, Francis Cardinal George, OMI, sent you in July of this year. On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I write to affirm our Conference's support for the October 8, 2009 statement of the bishops of Honduras regarding the political crisis in your nation, and to update you on a recent action we have undertaken on your behalf. We also reiterate our solidarity with the Church and the people of Honduras.

We sent a copy of your statement to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton expressing our support for your efforts to bring about unity and reconciliation in Honduras. Attached you will find a copy of my letter to Secretary Clinton asking that the United States government continue to encourage efforts to bring the political crisis to a peaceful resolution.

The suffering people of Honduras remain in our thoughts and prayers. We also pray that Honduran society, with the united collaboration of the Honduran bishops, may find ways to bring about peace and reconciliation. We assure you of our support for your continued efforts to promote societal healing.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Howard J. Hubbard
Bishop of Albany

Chairman, Committee on International Justice and Peace

Enclosure



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The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

I am writing again to express the support of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for a peaceful resolution of the political crisis in Honduras. We urge the United States government to support the Honduran people in achieving an agreement and the beginning of a process of societal reconciliation.

On October 8, 2009, the Catholic bishops of Honduras wrote a statement expressing the hope and desire to see their country move forward and begin the process of reconciliation and rebuilding of their society. We express our solidarity with our brother bishops and affirm their call for an “urgent need for a just, peaceful, accepted solution,” and their assessment that “any form of violence in words or deed, would be harmful.” A copy of the statement of the Honduran bishops is enclosed.

Our Conference is praying that the people of Honduras come to a peaceful resolution of their situation. We continue to extend solidarity with the Church in Honduras as it seeks ways to bring peace and reconciliation in their country.

The defense of human rights is a pillar of U.S. international policy and a particular concern for our Conference of Bishops which works to protect the life and dignity of the human person. The rights of all Hondurans must be respected in order to rebuild trust. We ask our government to keep human rights and respect for human dignity at the forefront as it supports the Honduran people in resolving the political crisis in their country.

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard

Bishop of Albany

Chairman, Committee on International Justice and Peace

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