



While urging U.S. to take action on the Honduran crisis NALACC brings a civil society delegation from Honduras

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The National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (NALACC) has emphatically denounced the coup d'état against the democratically elected President of Honduras and the subsequent human rights violations against the people of Honduras. NALACC is a national alliance of community-based organizations that seeks to improve the quality of life for Latinos and Latino immigrants in their communities both in the United States and in countries of origin.

In order to educate U.S. foreign policy makers and the general population about the reality of events transpiring in Honduras, NALACC is organizing a tour of Honduran civil society representatives, Honduran immigrants living in the US, as well immigrant activists from other countries. The tour will start in Washington D.C. with visits to Congressional offices and will be followed by visits to various U.S. cities, including New York, Boston, Chicago and Miami.

The members of the delegation include:

Dr. Juan Almeyda is an internationally known Honduran medical doctor, human rights activist, environmental leader and alternative medicine practitioner. He has received recognition for his outstanding and courageous work with victims of torture in Honduras. He is the internationally chosen recipient of the 2001 Barbara Chester Award for his groundbreaking efforts with prisoners, victims of torture, the poor, and indigenous populations. A torture survivor himself, Dr. Almeyda has been targeted by death squads on several occasions.

Abencio Fernández Pineda is the coordinator of the non-governmental organization Center for the Investigation and Defense of Human Rights in Honduras (CIPRODEH, by its Spanish initials) for the western region of Honduras. Mr. Pineda was previously an attorney for the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CODEH) and the Committee of the Relatives of Disappeared Detainees of Honduras (COFADEH).

Maria Luisa Jimenez, a former police officer in Honduras, denounced the widespread corruption in the police force and is now an activist for transparency in government and women's rights. She is currently a candidate for Honduran Congress with the Democratic Union party (UD).

Dr. Luther Castillo. Dr. Castillo is a young Garifuna medical doctor and community organizer who directs the Luaga Hatuadi Waduheñu Foundation ("For the Health of our People" in Garifuna), dedicated to bringing vital health services to isolated indigenous coastal communities. After his 2005 graduation from the Latin American Medical School in Havana, Dr. Castillo returned to the Honduran coast, where he led the Foundation's construction of Honduras' first Garifuna Rural Hospital, now serving some 20,000 in the surrounding communities. The hospital opened in December 2007, a few months after Dr. Castillo was named "Honduran Doctor of the Year" by Rotary International's Tegucigalpa chapter.

Gerardo Torres (TO BE CONFIRMED) is an independent journalist in Honduras who is also an active member of Los Necios, a grass-roots organization that seeks to change the dominant socio-economic dynamics of Honduras.

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