

[Click here to send an e-mail to the Honduran authorities to urge them to protect Pedro Canales' life](#) .

## Urgent Action



The Committee of the Family Members of the Detained and Disappeared of Honduras (COFADEH) urgently makes known to the national and international community the difficult situation faced by Human Rights Defender Pedro Canales Torres, President of the Association for the Development of the Zacate Grande Peninsula (ADEPZA).

PEDRO CANALES TORREZ is the victim of repeated threats and harassment, through different methods:

In April 2012, an authoritative voice told him on his cell phone that they must sit down to dialogue and negotiate with Mr. Miguel Facusse's representatives regarding the land in sites called the Curil, Playa Julian, Playas los Hornos and el Mudo in the La Flor community and others. They stated that this needed to be done to avoid grave harm that could affect him and the residents.

On May 5, 2012, he received another call on his cell phone in which they told him "Everyone agrees but you and you will be f\*cked".

Similarly, in August, September and October of 2012, he was victim of various attempts against him and sabotage to his car: actions ranging from placing galvanized nails in his tires, removing the oil cap, putting barbed wire on the idler of his car, to putting sugar in the gas tank - when the mechanic disassembled the tank he found approximately a pound of sugar, which caused damage in the temperature.

On January 29, 2013, a security guard of Miguel Facusse told him that the day in which Pedro's family would cry tears of blood was coming soon and that even the pistol the police decommissioned from Miguel Facusse's guard would be paid back. This referred to an incident that occurred during an initial hearing against two of Mr. Canales

colleagues, in which this guard sent two armed young men to the court who were later disarmed by police due to a complaint, in which the police stated that it was Mr. Canales who had filed it.

On February 22, 2013, he was participating in an Assembly in the Huatales community, in which he was providing support to the community regarding a land problem with Landowner Carlos Aviles, who was present at the assembly and claimed those lands as his. As a consequence of this, the supposed owner Carlos Aviles has retaliated against Pedro and the Association ADEPZA.

### **Context:**

The death threats and the intimidation directed at Pedro Canales are directly related to his work in defense of human rights in the communities that make up the Zacate Grande Peninsula. The residents and communicators are permanently at risk and even face criminalization for exercising their defense.

On December 5, 2012, we presented a complaint to the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights about the threats and harassment against the communicators of the *Voz de Zacate Grande* (Voice of Zacate Grande community radio station) and members of the Human Rights Camp.

We ask the national and international communities to demand that the State of Honduras:

n Initiate an independent, exhaustive and impartial investigation of the threats against Pedro Canales, his family, and the members of ADEPZA; that they make public the results and that those responsible are brought to justice;

n Urge the authorities take immediate measures to offer effective protection to Pedro Canales, his family and the members of ADEPZA according to their wishes and effectively implement the protective measures ordered by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the members of the *Voz de Zacate Grande*;

n Remind the authorities of the Government of Honduras that it is their obligation to guarantee that human rights defenders can carry out their activities without unjust restrictions and without fear of reprisals, as established by the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and OAS resolutions.

[Click here for a sample e-mail.](#)

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Send a copy to:

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*Translation of COFADEH's Urgent Action. Original in Spanish [here](#) .*