

December 20, 2017

The Honorable Luis Almagro
Secretary General
Organization of American States
200 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Secretary General Almagro:

We, the undersigned organizations, strongly commend and thank you for calling for new elections in Honduras in order to ensure legitimacy and promote democratic reconciliation.

The Electoral Observation Mission in Honduras of the Organization of American States (EOM OAS) decisively documented irregularities during and after the elections of November 26 that reveal a tainted electoral process including deliberate tampering of the ballot counting system and intentionally erasing digital traces. The lack of legitimacy in the conduct of the election, coming after a highly controversial court decision reversing past constitutional rulings to permit President Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado to run for re-election, will compromise Honduras's future governability and the rule of law. The way forward, as you have indicated, is for new, clean elections with the active participation of international observers throughout the country and with access to all computer operations of the Supreme Electoral Council (TSE).

We also call on the OAS and the member states to urge the Honduran government and all branches of the security forces to fully respect the Honduran people's right to peaceful protest and freedom of expression and assembly. To date, 22 people have been killed, over 800 detained and scores injured, the vast majority by the Military Police of Public Order and other Honduran military and police forces. This repression needs to end now.

The technical findings of the OAS mission demonstrate the OAS' critical role in support of the Inter-American Charter. We hope that the OAS, under your leadership, will lead a national dialogue enabling those new elections, oversee their conduct and help develop a process of national reconciliation in their aftermath. Please count on us for support in this endeavor.

Thank you again. May the grace and the peace of the holiday season be with you.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO
Alianza Americas
CARECEN

Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights
JASS (Just Associates)
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
Oxfam America
Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA)
United Steelworkers
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)