

ARTICLE 19 and C-Libre welcome the opportunity to contribute to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Honduras. The submission focuses on Honduras's compliance with its international obligations to respect, promote and protect rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly. It also reviews steps taken by Honduras to comply with the recommendations made during the first UPR cycle in 2010.

Since the first UPR review, Honduras initially took some positive steps to improve the protection of the rights to freedom of expression (including freedom of the press) and freedom of assembly. In particular, it has expressed a willingness to receive technical assistance from the international community in implementing the recommendations and in this respect, has commenced consultations with civil society organisations to discuss reforms.

Notwithstanding these positive steps, this submission identifies the following concerns:

- a. Prevailing impunity for human rights violations related to the 2009 coupe d'état;
- b. Violence against journalists and human rights defenders and related impunity;
- c. Failure to reform the legal framework to better protect journalists and human rights defenders;
- d. Attempts to silence journalists, human rights defenders and other critical voices through legal measures;
- e. Problematic regulation of the media sector;
- f. Restrictions to the right to access information.