

August 5, 2009

Dear Member of Congress:

We join with the international community and the international trade union movement in condemning the coup in Honduras. We urge you to do so also by cosponsoring H. Res. 630. While the U.S. trade union movement has important issues pending before the U.S. Congress that impact our members more directly, we hope you will take a stand for democracy and against the coup.

The resolution, introduced by Rep. William Delahunt (D-MA) and Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), condemns the coup, supports reinstatement of democratically-elected President Zelaya, urges the Administration to maintain pressure on the coup leaders, and backs international observation of elections that are currently scheduled for November 2009.

Honduran trade unions have roundly condemned the coup and are helping lead protests in Honduras against the coup. International and regional trade union organizations have also condemned the coup and support the reinstatement of President Zelaya. So have the AFL-CIO, SEIU, Steelworkers and other U.S. unions.

We are gravely concerned about violence against civilians who have protested the coup, the suspension of basic rights, including freedom of association, and the military takeover of radio and television stations. The continuing intransigence of the de facto government coupled with strong resistance to the coup within Honduras is creating the potential for further violence.

The last coup in Central America was in 1993. Coups in Latin America belong in the past. If this coup is not reversed, it will have dire consequences for democracy and stability in the region, as well as for rule of law, democracy, and stability in Honduras itself.

Congress should demonstrate its strong opposition to the coup and its support for democracy in Latin America. Please cosponsor H. Res. 630.

Sincerely,

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT)
International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
UNITE HERE
United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE)
United Steelworkers (USW)