

Item Title: Message Body

RELEASED IN FULL

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*I met with Mrs. Robles this morning at the offices of the Pro-Human Rights Association (APRODEH). She spoke with her husband by phone last night. When she saw her husband the day of his arrest most of his face and throat were still numb from the knockout spray applied by his captors. He had also been punched in the stomach and groin. Since her husband's arrest, Mrs. Robles has received telephonic death threats from individuals indentifying themselves as members of the Colina group, including threats against her 8 year old granddaughter. She also has received calls of support from active duty military officers who do not identify themselves.*

*Robles's lawyer, Heriberto Benitez, has been suspended from appearing before military courts for five months after he questioned the qualifications of military judges in a television interview. As a result, the Supreme Council of Military Justice has also brought a case against Benitez in civilian court for "contempt of court," for which Benitez can be detained. In addition, the Supreme Council of Military Justice issued a communique criticizing as inappropriate "interference" the Human Rights Ombudsman's public expression of concern with the manner in which Robles was detained. According the Supreme Council of Military Justice, the Ombudsman should have first requested information about the case before making any statement. Press reports indicate that the Ombudsman has no plans to reply publicly. WOLA and Americas Watch are likely aware of all of the above. Henry*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E. LANDFAIR  
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