

I am writing you to express my grave concern on members of an Afro-descendant Garifuna community in north-eastern Honduras, including human rights defender Miriam Miranda. They were temporarily abducted by armed men after discovering an illegal runway used by drug traffickers on the Garifuna community's territory. The safety of Miriam and the Garifuna community remains at risk.

I am therefore calling on you and your authorities to carry out an immediate and independent investigation into the abduction on 17 July, to make the results public and bring those found responsible to justice.

I am also urging you and your authorities to fully implement the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights precautionary measures in favour of Miriam Miranda and to provide effective protection to her, her family and all members of the Garifuna community in accordance with their wishes.

Lastly I need to remind you of your duty to guarantee that human rights defenders can carry out their work without fear of violence and threats, as established in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

I would highly appreciate your attention and action on the above.

Sincerely yours,