

I am writing this letter to express my grave concern that violence by security forces against protestors is escalating following the aftermath of the presidential election in Honduras. At least 20 people have reportedly been killed, hundreds are detained and others have been injured.

I call on you to refrain from disproportionate use of force and to fully respect the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

I would like to request that all those detained only for exercising their right to peaceful protest are released immediately and that anyone charged with a crime is guaranteed their right to due process, the right to defence, medical attention, and access to family and lawyers of their choosing.

Moreover, I call on you that a comprehensive, impartial and independent investigation by civilian authorities is immediately opened into all the cases of violent deaths and other cases of excessive use of force which occurred in the context of repression of the protests, and that the results are made public and those suspected of criminal responsibility are brought to justice before ordinary civilian courts.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely yours,