



**To the members of the Network of Women  
Parliamentarians of the Parliamentary Confederation of the  
Americas  
Press release concerning the coup in Honduras**

As you know, a coup was staged in Honduras today. Soldiers captured and detained constitutionally elected president Manuel Zelaya and forced him into exile. This in itself is an act of unlawful confinement.

These actions violate the democratic will of the Honduran people, who elected Zelaya to be their president, and are an affront to Honduran national sovereignty.

Telesur informs us that some private Honduran media outlets have been broadcasting cartoons, a technique similar to the one employed in Venezuela in April 2002.

I implore you, in your capacity as parliamentarians elected by popular vote in your respective countries, to demand before your parliament, in the media, and before international organizations that the democratic will and political and civil rights of the Honduran people, the rights conferred democratically by Hondurans on their president and the confidence awarded to his administration and his cabinet be respected. Furthermore, I urge you to insist on an immediate reply regarding the health and whereabouts of the courageous Patricia Rodas, Honduran Minister of External Relations.

This attack on democracy, the sovereignty of peoples and the exercise of political rights sets an unfortunate precedent for the future of our countries.

**Flor María Ríos, Member of the National Assembly of Venezuela**

**President of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas**



Caracas, Venezuela, June 28, 2009