



Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group in favor of the restoration of the constitutional order, the rule of law and the legally constituted authorities of the Republic of Honduras

The Heads of State and Government of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Coordination, gathered in Managua, Nicaragua, in their Second Extraordinary Summit:

Reiterating the content of the Declarations of the Rio Group in support of democratic institutions in Honduras, dated June 26th and 28th, 2009;

Considering that these events are an outrage to the Peoples and to Democracy in our region, given that the Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean have emphatically and definitively rejected the resort to the use of force to solve political differences, as well as any action that threatens the institutional and democratic continuity of our nations;

Convinced that it is urgent to act in accordance to the principles of our Mechanism, upon the basis of dialogue and political coordination, in order to categorically reject these events and to try to contribute to democracy and legality in the Republic of Honduras.

Declare:

1. Their most vigorous condemnation of the Coup d' État that took place in the morning hours of June 28th in Honduras, and in particular to the violence and arbitrariness with which the Constitutional President, José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, was arrested and forced to leave his country.
2. Express that the events which took place in Honduras constitute a flagrant violation of International Law.
3. Their full support to the Constitutional President of the Republic of Honduras, José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, who must be immediately and unconditionally restored to the Office that the Honduran people freely appointed him to, through their ballots.
4. That the use of force to overthrow a legally constituted government is unacceptable.



5. That it is indispensable to guarantee the freedom of speech and physical integrity of representatives of the media.
6. That the pledge of oath as Interim President of the Republic of Honduras, held yesterday at the National Congress of that country, lacks any legitimacy because it was the result of a Coup d' État.
7. That the only legitimate government of the Republic of Honduras is headed by the Constitutional President, José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, elected by popular sovereignty through the ballots, given which the only recognized Diplomatic representatives of the Government of Honduras are those appointed by President José Manuel Zelaya Rosales.
8. To urge the armed forces of that country to subordinate themselves to the command of their Commander in Chief and Constitutional President, José Manuel Zelaya Rosales.
9. That given the serious situation that affects the sister Republic of Honduras, the Mechanism requires the most absolute respect to Human Rights and demands that the constitutional guarantees of all individuals in that country be preserved.
10. To create a Committee formed by presidential representatives to investigate human rights crimes and violations by those who carried out the Coup d' État.
11. To urge the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Organization of American States that is meeting tomorrow, to adopt drastic solutions in order to restore Honduran democratic life and reinstate the Constitutional President, José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, in his Office.

The Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group thank the President of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, for his hospitality and for the facilities provided to hold this Second Extraordinary Summit.

Managua, Nicaragua, June 29th, 2009.