



STATEMENT BY THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RIO GROUP ON THE SITUATION IN HONDURAS

The Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Political Coordination, expresses its continued concern about the seriousness of the crisis in the Republic of Honduras and recalls its statements of June 26 and June 28 and the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government adopted in Managua on June 29, in which the Group stated its strong condemnation to the coup d'État in the Republic of Honduras that interrupted the constitutional and democratic order, and reaffirmed its demand to reinstate President José Manuel Zelaya, in a peaceful and stable environment. The Member States of the Permanent Mechanism reaffirm the terms of the resolution adopted by the Organization of American States (OAS) as well as the resolution 63/301 of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The Rio Group reaffirms its commitment with dialogue and political consultation. In this regard, the Group reiterates the demand of the unconditional and immediate restitution of President José Manuel Zelaya to the position to which he was legitimately elected and calls for dialogue and national reconciliation to achieve a peaceful solution of the crisis with the urgency of the matter.

The Rio Group supports the peaceful return of the Constitutional President Jose Manuel Zelaya to Honduras, condemns the violent acts registered hours ago outside the diplomatic mission of Brazil, demands the full respect to the physical integrity of the diplomats accredited in Honduras, and condemns the intimidating acts committed against the diplomatic representation. The Group also demands that the physical integrity of President Zelaya, his family and members of his government, are to be respected.

The Rio Group makes a strong call to guarantee the inviolability of the diplomatic mission of Brazil in Tegucigalpa in strict accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

The Rio Groups supports the actions of the Secretary-General of the OAS to restore the constitutional order in Honduras.

The Rio Group will remain seized of the situation in Honduras.

New York, September 22, 2009