



The Center for Economic and Policy Research,
Quixote Center and JASS (Just Associates) present:

Restoring human rights and democracy in Honduras:

An evening with Bertha Oliva and Jessica Sanchez at Busboys & Poets

Speakers:

Bertha Oliva, founder of the Committee of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras and a key figure in the Latin American human rights movement

Jessica Sanchez, of the National Alliance of Honduran Feminists in Resistance

with an introduction by

Mark Weisbrot, Co-Director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research

Thursday, November 5, 2009, 8:00-9:00pm

Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th Street, NW (14th and V Streets), Washington, DC

Bertha and Jessica will discuss the dramatic human rights abuses that have taken place in Honduras under the coup regime, the broad-based movement of resistance to the June 28 coup and the implications of the tentative settlement reached on October 29.

About the speakers:

Bertha Oliva's husband, professor Thomas Nativí was "disappeared" in 1981, during the period when the death squads were active under Honduras' military dictatorship. She founded the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH) together with other women who lost their loved ones, in order to seek justice and compensation for the families of the hundreds of dissidents that were "disappeared" between 1979 and 1989. Bertha has since become an emblematic presence in the Central American human rights movement and today is one of the leading voices of the resistance to the coup that ousted the elected president of Honduras on June 28th. Bertha will be visiting Washington to give a hearing at the Inter American Commission on Human Rights and to present her and to discuss the human rights situation in Honduras with U.S. administration officials and policy makers.

Jessica Mariela Sanchez, Honduran women's rights advocate and journalist, is in Washington, DC representing the national alliance of Honduran Feminists in Resistance. She served as Director of the Gender and Civil Society Unit in the Access to Justice Project of the Honduran Supreme Court for four years, founded the Honduran network Women of Comitahual, and currently undertakes legal research for UNIFEM, UNDP and the ILO. In August of this year, Ms Sanchez joined an international women's rights fact-finding mission examining the impact of the coup on women's rights, and now participates in the ongoing Feminist Transformation Watch - a joint effort between the Honduran feminists the Mesoamerican Petateras, JASS and Radio Feminista - spotlighting women's perspectives on the crisis.

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