

PRESS RELEASE

June 29, 2009

Following the events in the country this day, the Honduran National Business Council (COHEP) states the following:

1. President Zelaya's departure comes as a result of a systematic violation, by the government he headed, of the Constitution and Honduran laws despite countless efforts by the major institutions of the country and by the majority of this country's citizens expressed in the many calls for reflection and massive demonstrations that rejected the efforts of the Executive branch.
2. Former President Zelaya did not pay attention to nor attended the resolutions and requirements made by the Honduran Attorney-General, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Solicitor General, the Human Rights Commissioner and Congress.
3. Congress, upon a unanimous vote of its members, public powers and the Armed Forces, have acted with the sole purpose of restoring the threatened institutions of this country ensuring that all Hondurans will elect, freely and democratically, the authorities that will legitimately emanate from popular sovereignty in the upcoming elections in November.
4. This Council calls on all national sectors to help maintain a climate of social peace, of dialogue and understanding, so as to avoid a further deepening of divisions that were created as a result of the actions of former President Zelaya and his Cabinet.
5. The new authorities headed by President Roberto Micheletti, whose mandate ends on January 27, 2010, are obligated to, during the short duration of their term; seek the general good of the country ahead of any partisan or personal interest. Honduras needs to, today more than ever, care for its democracy with unselfishness, generosity and service.
6. What occurred today was the not changing of one president for another; today, framed in national unity, the respect for the Constitution, national laws, and institutionalism was achieved. This framework is essential in order to achieve, the

changes demanded by our society, where the majority will be incorporated in the process of economic and social development.

7. We express our categorical rejection to threats of intervention in our internal affairs by foreign governments. Hondurans alone have the right to seek the paths of peace and understanding that were violated, largely, by this unwarranted intervention in our internal politics.

8. Moreover, we call upon the international community to objectively inquire about the causes of our political crisis, avoiding simplifications that distort the difficult situation Honduras is facing, and thus become aware that this process solely aims to maintain the rule of law and democracy.

9. Finally, we, as working men and women, offer our patriotic collaboration to the moral and material reconstruction to be undertaken by Honduras as of today for the benefit of all our people.

HONDURAN NATIONAL BUSINESS COUNCIL