

July 28, 2009

Senator John Kerry
Senate of the United States of America
His Office

Dear Senator Kerry,

My name is Billy Joya Améndola. I am an Honduran citizen and am writing to you as a result of having read your letter published in The Washington Post. Although at no time did you mention my name, I can surmise that when you allude in your published letter to the phrase: "to which a human rights violator in the decade of the eighties is an advisor of the de facto President Micheletti", you are no doubt referring to me, although I assure you that I am not an advisor to acting President Roberto Micheletti, nor was I a human rights violator in the decade of the eighties.

Senator, in the decade of the eighties in my country I was a police lieutenant and member of an intelligence unit of the Honduran Armed Forces and, during all those years I was assigned as a liason official with personnel of the State Department who were assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Our work during all those years consisted of implementing programs funded by your government to control and detain the illegal traffic of arms and munitions that the Sandinista government was exporting to my country and the rest of the Central American region.

As I know that you have the influence and access to inquire into this matter, I believe that you will find sufficient elements of information on said decade relating to my conduct and my person for you to evaluate my situation within the context of the decade of the eighties, based on reliable sources you have at your disposal in various institutions and agencies of your government.

In 1995, I was accused for the first time in the courts of my country of supposed human rights violations. In that same year, I published a document titled "The BJ Report" ("El Informe BJ") which summarized the history of actions of the revolutionary left in my country and which included a detailed chronology of all the terrorist acts the insurgent movements carried out in Honduras during that time, as well as a detailed account of the terrorist acts in which U.S. citizens and those of other nationalities were attacked, kidnapped and even murdered.

The publication of The BJ Report had a large impact, as it signaled the first time in several decades that Honduran public opinion came to know a point of view from another angle.

However, in addition to the impact, there were also consequences for me: four new accusations in some way connected to what I considered to be an ideological revenge for publishing the BJ Report.

Senator, since 1995 in my country I have been accused of 5 cases of supposed human rights violations, including in some cases 27 reiterative crimes. Since that time, 14 years have passed, as well as four Supreme Courts of Justice and four governments of different ideological tendencies and political parties.

At present, I am subject to the courts of justice of my country. The trials are ongoing and although it may seem difficult for you to believe what I am about to say, during these 14 years no documented, testimonial or expert evidence has been presented in any of the five accusations or the 27 supposed crimes that involves me in any of the above mentioned five cases.

Senator, based on national and international law and the protection provided in the same universal declaration of human rights, which states: "no one should be considered guilty until

defeated and sentenced at trial and his status of being presumed innocent should be respected at all times until proven otherwise”, I respectfully request that you verify and inquire more deeply into the truth of my situation and my cases.

Senator, living with this stigma has not been easy for me and my family during these past 14 years, but believe me, as I have said publicly in my country on repeated occasions, in addition to being subject to the courts of justice of Honduras, I am willing to submit myself freely and voluntarily to the summons of any international court for it to try the cases currently against me, as well as being willing to respect any sentence for or against me arising from the verdict originating from that international court.

Regarding this matter, Senator, I know that my words will not be sufficient to achieve a change of opinion in your mind, but even though I have not made your acquaintance, I know that as a human being you are certainly a man principles and values, which is I why I am simply endeavoring to awake your interest in inquiring more deeply into the affirmation made in your article, in which you mention me without actually naming me as an official involved in human rights violations in the decade of the eighties, because I categorically affirm to you that I never was a human rights violator during that time and never have been.

On another issue, Senator, I wish to refer to another point brought up in the article in which you referred to me, albeit without mentioning my name, stating that I am currently an advisor to interim President Roberto Micheletti.

It is important to mention that in 2008, I was a political advisor for ten months to Roberto Micheletti, who at that time was campaigning for the presidential candidacy in the primary elections.

My work as political advisor in that campaign ended on November 27, 2008, the day on which my client lost the election and returned to his position as a member of Congress and I to my habitual second trade as a security consultant.

Due to the crisis that broke out in my country this past June 28, I decided to accept an invitation of a television program, as an Honduran citizen in the full enjoyment of my civil rights, on my own, particular initiative, to render a political analysis of what I initially considered had been the hidden strategy of President Manuel Zelaya during the past three years of his administration.

It is important to note that, aside from me, hundreds and thousands of Hondurans during this crisis have demonstrated for and against by making use of the televised, radial and written media, as well as the Internet.

Senator, although the two televised interviews I gave these past days under the protection of the Law for the Expression of Thought (“ Ley de Emisión del Pensamiento”), are in Spanish, you and the people of your team can access them on www.youtube.com using the “Honduras 3030” link.

I wish to assure you that my decision to express my thoughts based on my political analysis in the interviews carried on local television was a strictly personal decision which I took with the support of my wife and children, based on my democratic principles and aware that through my opinions I was able to contribute my grain of sand to the battle for peace, liberty and democracy in Honduras.

It should be noted and you can obtain information about it through your government and the U.S. Embassy in Honduras, that my televised interviews had an impact on people. On the one hand very many citizens of all social stratas understood at that

time what they had not previously comprehended but, on the other hand, those who did not agree with my opinions began to attack me with things that occurred in the past, such as that which you mention in your letter involving me with human rights violations.

In Venezuela they spent two complete television programs on me in “Telesur”, the official government channel. CNN also made comments similar to those made in your letter and ex-officials of President Zelaya’s government raised their voices against me in like manner.

Senator, if you conduct an investigation of my person, you will be able to appreciate that I am a normal, run- of- the- mill citizen who has no economic or, much less, political power. All I have are my principles, my values, my family and my faith.

Why then, as happened in the decade of the eighties when I was a simple lieutenant, did they turn me into an icon to be destroyed without mentioning generals and ex-presidents of my country? Why have those who now do not agree with what I say resumed their groundless and unsubstantiated attacks against me simply because I exercised my constitutional right of free expression, while totally disregarding the fact that I have been waiting for more than 14 years in my country for anyone to come forward with a shred of evidence against me?

Finally, Senator, I can assure you that due to my televised appearances, which as I told you caused a large impact both for and against since this past June 28, many international reporters came to Honduras and began to contact me, and I had occasion to receive some of them in my home, such as William Booth of the Washington Post, Phillip Sherwell of the Sunday Telegraph of London, Mark Lacy of the New York Times, and others who were seeking opinions.

Obviously, the final aim of these journalists was to obtain an interview with interim President Roberto Micheletti. For this purpose I used my contact with persons around Roberto Micheletti whom I had come to know last year during the political campaign process and coordinated interviews for some of them with the interim president.

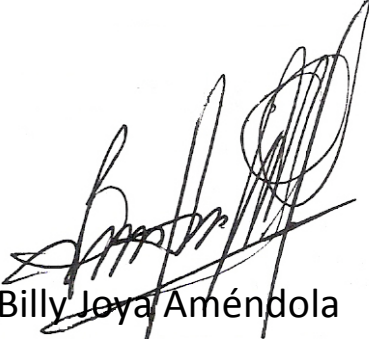
For example, as was the case with the Washington Post correspondent, once I confirmed where Interim President Micheletti was residing, said correspondent and I went in the evening hours to that location without any confirmation or agenda, and Mr. Booth obtained his interview with Mr. Micheletti in my presence and that of the President of Congress and an Honduran translator who served as intermediary between the correspondent and the interim president.

Senator, my purpose in writing you this letter is to provide you with some elements of information you possibly may not have. Personally, I consider that an injustice has been committed against me and my family in this instance, as has been the case during these last 14 years, that being the reason why I do not fail to take advantage of every occasion to reiterate my truth and persist in my decision to not take the legal initiative of closing the five cases against me. I have publicly challenged and continue to challenge in my country any Honduran national or foreigner to present one piece of evidence against me.

Also, Senator, I reiterate my attitude of submitting myself to any international court at any time I am asked to do so, in order to defend myself and to demonstrate to the world the great injustice that continues to be committed against me and my family by accusing me as being responsible for acts I never committed and which I reject categorically with the force of truth.

In closing, I wish to reiterate to you that my intent in sending you this letter is none other than that of placing at your disposal such elements of information that can contribute to the search for truth and justice.

I use this occasion to convey to you, Senator, my highest and distinguished consideration and esteem.



Billy Joya Améndola
Citizen

P.S.

Should you consider that I can continue to contribute to you by responding to questions or providing information of interest to you, it will be an honor to reply to you via this email address: billyjoya@gmail.com

CC. His Excellency the Ambassador of the United States of America in Honduras,
Mr. Hugo Llorens