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Dear Mission Honduras International Supporter,

We are writing to inform you of very serious recent events within APUFRAM, the recipient of funds from Mission Honduras International (MHI). APUFRAM is the Honduran organization responsible for managing all the mission sites including the one in Liberia. These events have led to significant changes for MHI, which will impact our work and support of some of the mission sites. As you may have read in the March e-newsletter, we reported that in February the Honduran director of the Liberia mission was accused of, and subsequently confessed to, multiple sexual abuse incidences of a child entrusted to the care of the Mission staff. The Honduran director was appointed by and employed by APUFRAM. The incident was brought to the attention of Mission Honduras International by Jerome Cabeen. Jerome is known to many of you. He was the full-time volunteer Visitor's Center Director in Honduras for four years prior to volunteering in Liberia. Because Jerome reported the incident to MHI and supported the abused child he has suffered injustice and has, in essence, been "cast out" by APUFRAM and removed from his position with the organization. Sadly, Fr. Emil has not come to Jerome's defense and has supported the decision of APUFRAM against him. Fr. Emil feels that this abuse is an internal matter for APUFRAM to handle as they see fit.

Unfortunately, APUFRAM's handling of the situation has not met our shared values and standards of appropriate and legal conduct. Their response has been characterized by a desire to cover up the abuses, deceive legal authorities, accuse the abused child and punish those who brought the abuse to light.

Furthermore, Mission Honduras International has also learned of several additional allegations of negligent and abusive behavior by some of the leadership of APUFRAM towards children in their care, towards other members of the staff (especially in Liberia), and towards volunteer staff.

Mission Honduras International cannot turn a blind eye to these events. At this time, as a result of APUFRAM's inadequate handling of the abuse incidents, the board of Mission Honduras International, a U.S. based nonprofit, has voted to suspend the funding of APUFRAM until its leadership demonstrates that new corrective policies, procedures and programs are in place and that responsible leadership is overseeing the management of the mission sites. Implemented policies, procedures and programs must include:

1. **Child Protection Program.** Approved and auditable child protection procedures for all sites operated by APUFRAM.
2. **Whistleblower Policy.** Policies and procedures to protect employees, volunteers, children and others reporting abuse or wrongdoing from retribution of any kind.
3. **Racism Policy.** Policies and procedures to protect against racism.
4. **Leadership.** Policies and procedures which represent a full commitment to protect those we serve, and the selection of staff who demonstrate the ability to fulfill that commitment.
5. **Financial Responsibility.** Compliance with procedures which require grant requests, financial reports, and support audits.

Compliance with the requirements for transparency, accountability and improved leadership will be determined by the Mission Honduras International board. Evidence of compliance includes protection and support of whistleblowers while simultaneously holding accountable people who have abused children and misrepresented the truth.

This board action has been supported in writing by the leadership of the Provincial office of the Conventual Franciscan Friars in Mt. St. Francis, Indiana, and by Fr. Emil's immediate Franciscan superior in Honduras.

In the short-term, APUFRAM will be able to continue their operations in Honduras and Dominican Republic using a fund they previously established and which Mission Honduras International does not control. APUFRAM's staff has left Liberia and they have not replaced the staff in Liberia. MHI has stepped up to insure the Liberia mission is staffed. Jerome Cabeen and his wife Clarisa will lead the mission in Liberia working for Mission Honduras International instead of APUFRAM. We firmly believe in Jerome and Clarisa and are thankful that they had the courage to come forward to defend and protect the vulnerable parties involved. We also thank them for their willingness to extend their stay in Liberia by a full year, until August 2010.

We recognize that these are significant changes, but this decision was made after extensive and ongoing efforts to encourage APUFRAM to handle this situation with the integrity, transparency and severity it merits. Unfortunately, however, despite these efforts, the Mission Honduras International Board has determined the changes are necessary requirements in order to protect the children and demonstrate a commitment to justice, dignity and respect towards the people we serve.

We also recognize that this decision will impact each of you, and we assure you that Mission Honduras International will continue operating and serving the children in Liberia as well as, in the future, children in other countries including Honduras. In the meantime, however, we encourage all groups that have already purchased plane tickets to contact our staff (Bob O'Dwyer, bobodwyer@missionhonduras.com or 708-349-4001). We will endorse missionary trips to Honduras while the current MHI leadership at the Visitor's Center in Honduras remains in place (estimated to be early August, 2009). We recommend that all groups in the planning stage should put their trip plans on hold or contact us about visiting Liberia. Also, if you are currently the sponsor of a child or mother in Honduras, we ask that you continue your support in the interim and/or contact our staff about sponsoring a child in Liberia. Our action will not have any immediate impact on currently sponsored children. As we mentioned above, APUFRAM has resources to continue their programs for some time. Until the situation with APUFRAM is resolved, your funds will help the children in Liberia.

Thank you for all that you have done to follow Father Emil's vision through Mission Honduras International.

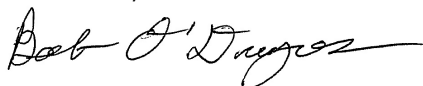
Please know that we need your prayers more than ever. We also ask you to continue your financial support for Mission Honduras International because we are now feeding and caring for the 120 children in our care in Liberia and the many more that attend our school. Whether or not we resume support of APUFRAM in the future, the ideals of the organization that Fr. Emil built continue to be at the heart of our commitment, and we will continue to operate and serve even more children as we move forward.

Finally, and most importantly, we want to assure you that the young girl at the heart of this matter remains a student of Liberia Mission. She is doing much better now and is being well cared for and nurtured by Jerome, Clarisa and the rest of the mission staff. Please keep them in your prayers.

Please write if you have questions or if you would like more information. You may also visit our website to see a more detailed account of the events that led to this decision:

www.missionhonduras.com/page32/files/Letter-EmailtoSupporters.doc

God Bless,



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Acting President

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Mission Honduras International