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The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 26 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the letter dated 26 April 2010 from His Excellency Alden Rivera Montes, Acting Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Honduras, to His Excellency Samuel Santos López, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, regarding the arbitrary seizure by the Nicaraguan Navy on the night of 22 April 2010 of the Colombian-flagged vessel *Laura Any*, which was in the waters of the exclusive economic zone under Honduran jurisdiction (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, in all official languages, under agenda item 20.

(Signed) Mary E. Flores Flake
Ambassador, Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 26 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that I have learned from a number of official sources and independent reports that, during the night of 22 April 2010, the Colombian-flagged vessel *Laura Any* was seized by the Nicaraguan Navy in the waters of the exclusive economic zone under Honduran jurisdiction.

In the face of this violation of international law by the Nicaraguan Navy, which is aimed at demonstrating an artificial and purely formal exercise of control in (“*effectivités*”) the area of Serranía, challenging Honduran jurisdiction in the maritime zone in which the arbitrary seizure took place, I wish to protest most strongly and to assert the legal reservation regarding the maritime zone located to the north of latitude 14°59’08” North and east of longitude 82° West, presented by this Ministry in a diplomatic note of 23 June 2008 to the Government of Nicaragua, while respecting fully the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 8 October 2007.

The Government of Honduras trusts that the Government of Nicaragua will adhere with the requisite rigour and diligence to the provisions of paragraph 321, subparagraph (3), of the Judgment of the International Court of Justice referred to above for as long as there are matters pending before the Court in connection with that maritime zone, and that it will ensure that its naval patrol vessels refrain from making military incursions and taking other action contrary to international freedom of navigation in the exclusive economic zone belonging to Honduras, in conformity with international law.

(Signed) Alden **Rivera Montes**
