



# **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

800 2nd Ave., Ste. 400G, New York, NY 10017 • Tel: (212) 599-0950 • Fax: (212) 599-1020 • [www.svg-un.org](http://www.svg-un.org)

## **Statement**

By

**H.E. Camillo M. Gonsalves**

Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

On the subject of

**The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of  
peace, freedom, democracy and development  
– the Coup d'état in Honduras**

29<sup>th</sup> June, 2009  
New York

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA).

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines categorically condemns in the strongest possible terms the coup d'état engineered by the Armed Forces of Honduras against the legitimately elected government of José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, President of the Republic of Honduras. This action is illegal and wholly unwarranted, and represents a gross violation of the rule of law and the norms of civilized nations. We call for the immediate restoration of the Constitutional order, including the restoration to power of President Zelaya and his government, and for the full respect of democratic norms.

The leaders of the Honduran military have dishonoured themselves in this naked grab for power. In violently forcing President Zelaya into temporary exile, kidnapping sitting ministers of government, and violating international law through the abduction, physical mistreatment and abuse of foreign diplomats, the architects of this shameful coup d'état have indeed heralded a "return to barbarism," as stated by President Cristina Fernández of Argentina.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines joins those nations that have called unequivocally for the immediate return President Zelaya to his legitimately elected post and duties. We do not recognize the purported new government of Honduras, and urge other nations to similarly reject any government other than the one freely chosen by the people of Honduras.

In our hemisphere, we have firmly turned the page on an ignominious chapter of antidemocratic military power grabs, unsupported by the vast majority of the people, and encouraged solely by a selfish and short-sighted elite. We urge international solidarity in condemning this cowardly and antidemocratic action, and in demanding the prompt return to office of President Zelaya and his government. We all have an obligation to ensure that the popular will is respected through prompt restoration of the democratic order.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines expresses particular concern and outrage as a member of CARICOM. One of our members – Belize – is a near neighbour of Honduras, and the current unrest therefore directly touches and concerns the central interests of our subregion.

Similarly, as a signatory to the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas, we are doubly outraged at this brutal and criminal affront to the democratic institutions, safety and stability of a brother State.

It is through the solidarity, unanimity and unequivocal condemnation by all sub-regional, regional and international multilateral institutions – including the Organisation of American States and the United Nations – that this despicable aberration will be beaten back into the dustbin of obsolete and discredited extrajudicial tactics.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also salutes the bravery of the Honduran people, who have signaled their rejection of these illegal and barbaric acts by the military and its co-conspirators. We continue to urge a peaceful resolution to this conflict, and call for a nonviolent restoration of the Constitutional order.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines therefore reiterates its solidarity with President José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, his government, and the noble people of Honduras.

Mr. President, permit me, like my brother the Permanent Representative of Cuba, to also quote Jose Marti, the Apostle of Cuban Independence. Marti said, “one just principle from the depths of a cave is more powerful than an army.”

Today, we must reaffirm the just principles of human rights, democracy, non-violence and respect for the rule of law. With firm adherence to these just principles, and with the unstinting support of the international community, the people of Honduras shall soon prove to be more powerful than the military dictators.

I thank you.