

January 8, 2005

HONDURAS: Remembering Iginio Hernandez Vasquez, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY LAND ACTIVIST MURDERED

On December 31, 2004, Iginio Hernandez Vasquez, indigenous community land activist affiliated with COPINH (Civic Council of Grassroots and Indigenous Organizations) in the department of La Paz, was murdered. Rights Action prepared this urgent action today, two years since Montaña Verde community activists Marcelino and Leonardo Miranda, also COPINH affiliates struggling for communal land rights, were tortured and jailed (they are still in jail, on fraudulent charges).

In solidarity with community activists in Honduras struggling for land and justice in a context of repression and ongoing impunity, please send your messages of concern to the authorities listed below. To support the humanitarian needs of the surviving family of Iginio Hernandez Vasquez, make tax-deductible donations to Rights Action (see below).

Please redistribute this information. If you want on-off this elist: info@rightsaction.org

===

HONDURAS: Remembering Iginio Hernandez Vasquez

On December 31, 2004, IGINIO HERNANDEZ VASQUEZ was murdered in the department of La Paz, in southern Honduras. He was ambushed and fired at by armed men in the old health center in the community of Planes. Already shot, he managed to run away, but soon fell to the ground. His assailants soon caught up to him and slit his throat. There were two witnesses to the murder, who identified Roberto Vasquez as one of the murderers, who are suspected to be paid assassins.

Iginio Hernandez was born in the community of Crucitas, municipality

of

Santa Maria, La Paz. He was the Secretary of the Indigenous Communal Council of Las Olominas, a small Lenca community of some 14 families. The

group affiliated with the Civic Council of Grassroots and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras in 1993, the year of its foundation. Las Olominas

struggled for land rights, recuperating land to cultivate which was later

recognized under the communal land initiative for indigenous communities.

Aside from the danger that faces Iginio's family and the two witnesses,

several other community members – including Martin Garcia, who has previously been jailed related to the struggle for community land – have

been threatened.

SEND MESSAGES:

- expressing anger about murder of Iginio Hernandez Vasquez and threats against other Las Olominas community members;
- demanding measures be taken to guarantee the safety of Iginio's family, witnesses, Martin Garcia and other threatened community members;
- demanding an impartial, complete investigation so that those found responsible be brought to justice.

CANADIANS:

- Robert Richard, Canadian Ambassador to Honduras, F:(504)239-7767, E:tgipa@dfait.maeci.gc.ca
- Honduran Embassy in Canada, Ana Carolina Galeano Burgos, 151 Slater Street, Suite 805-A, Ottawa, KIP-5H3, E: embhonca@embassyhonduras.ca, T:(613)233-8900, F:(613)232-0193

USA:

- Larry Palmer, US Ambassador to Honduras, t:(504) 236-9320 / 238-5114, F:(504) 236-9037
- Mario Miguel Canahuati, Honduran Ambassador to US, T:(202) 966-7702, 966-2604, 966-9751, F:(202) 966-9751, E: embassy@hondurasemb.org , 3007 Tilden Street N.W. , Suite 4-M, Washington, D.C. 20008

HONDURAS:

- Honduras mission to the United Nations, T: 212-752-3370, E:hndun.org
- Lic. Ricardo Maduro, President of the Republic, Fax: (504) 221-4552
- Dr. Ramon Custodio Lopez, National Human Rights Commissioner, Fax:

(504)
232-6894, Email: custodioloopez@conadeh.hn

with copies to COPINH: copinhonduras@yahoo.es, Tel/Fax: (504) 783-0817

FUNDS FOR HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

To contribute tax-deductible funds for the emergency needs of Iginio's family, and threatened community members of Las Olominas, make check payable

to "Rights Action" and mail to:

* United States: 1830 Connecticut Av, NW, Washington DC, 20009.

* Canada: 509 St. Clair Ave W, box73527, Toronto ON, M6C-1C0.

On-line donations: USA and Canada: www.rightsaction.org.

Wire funds to Rights Action: contact info@rightsaction.org,
416-654-2074.

===