

**State-Sponsored Disappearance Of Juan Chinchilla  
Journalist & leader of MUCA (Unified Campesino Movement of  
Aguan)**

Urgent action, January 10, 2011



Juan made phone calls to friends before he was disappeared, saying he was being followed. Later his motorcycle was found with two bullet holes on the road. Karen Spring spoke with Joni Rivas, another leader from MUCA, who says that they have not heard anything from him and he has NOT APPEARED. They hope he "turns up alive and is not being tortured."

Juan is a journalist in charge of the media relations for MUCA. Last year 10 journalists were killed in Honduras and this year persecution against the media and the country-wide pro-democracy movement continues.

Juan has participated in many of the negotiations and meetings in Tegucigalpa that MUCA has had with the Honduran regime, headed by Pepe Lobo. He often is the person updating the MUCA blog ([www.http://movimientomuca.blogspot.com/](http://movimientomuca.blogspot.com/)) and he is normally the person that sends out info, communiqués and photos from the region. He is well known within the resistance and campesinos movements as well as to the authorities.

Last year on August 4th, he was detained by police and held over night in Copan, Honduras for 'not wearing his seat belt'. He is high profile, well known and a target of the police and military.

Tocoa, Colon is still heavily militarized since well before the November 15, 2010 massacre of 5 campesinos. Campesinos continue being threatened by police and military in conjunction with private security forces paid by large land owners.

The last two incidents that have occurred in the region:  
Tuesday, January 4: when private security guards of Miguel Facusse harassed a member of the Campesino Movement of Aguan (MCA) close to Guadalupe Carney (where the November 15 massacre occurred);  
Sunday, January 2: when two youth/campesinos were brutally beaten in Trujillo by private security guards of Facusse and Rene Canales.

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### **URGENT COMMUNIQUÉ**

(Translated by: Luis Granados Ceja)

We demand Juan Chinchilla be returned alive!

On Saturday, January 8th, our comrade Juan Chinchilla was kidnapped. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Front of Popular Resistance as the representative of Youth in Resistance and the Unified Campesino Movement of Aguan (MUCA in Spanish).

Juan has become known for his belligerence in the struggle for the right of the campesinos to work the land, something that has meant a permanent situation of harassment and threats from the large landowners, Miguel Facussé, René Morales y Reinaldo Canales, who with the collaboration of the de facto regime of Porfirio Lobo, maintain a state of savage repression against the people of the Aguan valley.

The kidnapping occurred at 8:00pm on Saturday January 8th, on the road to the campesino settlement La Concepcion, in the municipality of Tocoa, while Juan was on his way home. Moments before his kidnapping, he made a phone call in order to denounce that a motorcycle and a car were following him. Afterwards, gunshots were fired but when others arrived, they found only his motorcycle with bullet holes in it.

We vehemently condemn this act. We demand respect for the life and physical integrity of our comrade, who has demonstrated an extraordinary amount of valor in the struggle for the re-founding of Honduras.

We alert all the national and international human rights organizations so that they may put pressure on this repressive regime that speaks about a false reconciliation and national unity, meanwhile it continues to endorse and participate in crimes against people and popular organizations.

The NFPR will immediately establish pressure actions in order to secure the liberation of Juan Chinchilla.

We Will Resist and Succeed!

National Front of Popular Resistance / National Front of Youth in Resistance

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**ILLEGITIMATE REGIME**

Since the June 2009 military coup, State repression has increased drastically, in Honduras, and has again become systematic, as it was in the 1970s, 80s and early 90s.

For this on-going situation of systematic State repression, RA holds the governments of the US and Canada partially responsible. In all of the Americas, most governments do not recognize the legitimacy of the post-military coup regime that has not been allowed back into the OAS (Organization of American States). Yet, the United States and Canada “recognize” the military-backed regime of Honduras, and are pursuing full economic, political and military relations with this regime.

## **WHAT TO DO:**

### **HONDURAS**

Please call the police stations and the DNIC in Tocoa & Trujillo and ask about Juan Chinchilla's whereabouts and what they are doing to investigate his disappearance. Mention that you are concerned for his life.

- 1) Police station, Tocoa, 011-504-2444-3101
- 2) DNIC, Tocoa, 011-504-2444-4038
- 3) Police station, Trujillo, 011-504-2434-4038 (try this number last as I have been unable to get through to this one).

### **UNITED STATES**

Send urgent letters of concern to the following, demanding the re-appearance of Juan Chinchilla (healthy and secure) and demanding that the US government suspend all economic and military relations and dealings with Honduras:

- White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/CONTACT/>, 202-456-1111, Comment Line: 202-456-1414
- US Congress: Go to <http://www.house.gov/> to get contact info for your congress members, or call: 202-224-3121
- US Senate: Go to <http://www.senate.gov/> to get contact info for your senator, or call 202-224-3121

- State Department: 202 647-8947
- State Department, Office of Western Hemisphere Affairs: (202) 647-0834, [WHAAsstSecty@State.Gov](mailto:WHAAsstSecty@State.Gov)
- Ambassador Craig Kelly, Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary, Western Office of Hemisphere Affairs: [KellyC@state.gov](mailto:KellyC@state.gov)
- Maria Otero, Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs; c/o Laura Pena, Assistant: [Penal@state.gov](mailto:Penal@state.gov)
- Ambassador Hugo Llorens, U.S. Embassy, Honduras: [LlorensH@state.gov](mailto:LlorensH@state.gov)
- Benjamin Gedan, Honduras Desk Officer: (202) 647-3482
- Dr. Arturo Valenzuela: [ValenzuelaAA@state.gov](mailto:ValenzuelaAA@state.gov)
- Paul Monteiro, Office of Public Engagement: [Darron\\_P.\\_Monteiro@who.eop.gov](mailto:Darron_P._Monteiro@who.eop.gov)

## **CANADIAN OFFICIALS & POLITICIANS**

Send urgent letters of concern to the following, demanding the re-appearance of Juan Chinchilla (healthy and secure) and demanding that the US government suspend all economic and military relations and dealings with Honduras:

- Prime Minister Stephen Harper: [harpes@parl.gc.ca](mailto:harpes@parl.gc.ca)
- Minister of Foreign Affairs Lawrence Cannon: 509-S Centre Block, House of Commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6, [cannol@parl.gc.ca](mailto:cannol@parl.gc.ca)
- Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas) Peter Kent: 125 Sussex Dr, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0G2, (613) 992-0253, [kent.p@parl.gc.ca](mailto:kent.p@parl.gc.ca)
- Gilles Duceppe, leader, Bloc Quebecois: 1200 Papineau Av, #350, Montreal, QC, H2K 4R5, [ducepg@parl.gc.ca](mailto:ducepg@parl.gc.ca)
- Jack Layton, leader, New Democratic Party: 221 Broadview Ave, Suite 100, Toronto, ON, M4M 2G3, [laytoj@parl.gc.ca](mailto:laytoj@parl.gc.ca)
- Elizabeth May, leader, Green Party: Saanich Gulf Islands EDA, PO Box 20076, Sidney, BC, V8L 5C9, [emaytwin@greenparty.ca](mailto:emaytwin@greenparty.ca)
- Michael Ignatieff, leader, Liberal Party: 656 The Queensway, Etobicoke, ON, M8Y 1K7, [ignatm@parl.gc.ca](mailto:ignatm@parl.gc.ca)

- Bob Rae, Liberal, Foreign Affairs Critic: 613 992-5234, [RaeB@parl.gc.ca](mailto:RaeB@parl.gc.ca)
- Francine Lalonde, Bloc Quebecois, Foreign Affairs Critic: (613) 995-6327, [LalonF@parl.gc.ca](mailto:LalonF@parl.gc.ca)
- Paul Dewar, NDP, Foreign Affairs Critic: 1306 Wellington St. W, Ottawa, Ontario, K1Y 3B2, [dewarp@parl.gc.ca](mailto:dewarp@parl.gc.ca), 613-946-8682
- Kevin Sorenson, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development: Rm 518, Justice Building, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6, (613) 947-4608, [SorenK@parl.gc.ca](mailto:SorenK@parl.gc.ca), 613-992-2971
- Dean Allison, Foreign Affairs Committee Chairperson: 4994 King Street, Beamsville, Ontario, L0R 1B0, [allison.d@parl.gc.ca](mailto:allison.d@parl.gc.ca), 905-995-2772
- Kate Stefanuk, Acting Director (& responsible for Honduras): [kate.stefanuk@acdi-cida.gc.ca](mailto:kate.stefanuk@acdi-cida.gc.ca)
- CANADIAN Embassy in Costa Rica (responsible for Honduras, as well): Ambassador Neil Reeder, (506) 2242-4400, (506) 2242-4411, [sjcra@international.gc.ca](mailto:sjcra@international.gc.ca)
- Honduras Office of the Canadian Embassy: Centro Financiero Banexpo - Tercer Piso, Boulevard San Juan Bosco, Colonia Payaquí, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, (504) 232-4551; [tgjpa@international.gc.ca](mailto:tgjpa@international.gc.ca)

## **CANADIAN MEMBERS OF**

**PARLIAMENT:** <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>

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## **FOR MORE INFORMATION, ENGLISH & ESPANOL:**

Karen Spring, Rights Action, in Tegucigalpa. 011-504-9507-3835.

[spring.kj@gmail.com](mailto:spring.kj@gmail.com)

Annie Bird, Washington DC, 202-680-3002, [annie@rightsaction.org](mailto:annie@rightsaction.org)

Grahame Russell, Connecticut, 860-352-2448, [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

## **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS**

To make a tax-deductible donation for humanitarian relief work in these campesino communities affected by poverty and repression in Honduras, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

UNITED STATES: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887

CANADA: 552 - 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS:

<http://rightsaction.org/contributions.htm>; or go to:

[www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org). (Credit card donations can be done anonymously)

FOR DONATION OF STOCK: contact [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org). (Stock donations can be done anonymously – have your stockbroker contact [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org))

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