

Rights Action
October 1, 2013
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Freedom for Honduran Indigenous Leader Berta Cáceres

- **On-Line Petition** (prepared by SOA Watch). To read and sign: <http://SOAW.org/berta>

As the November 24 presidential elections approach, the military-backed regime in power continues repression against the courageous pro-democracy movement and anyone or group linked to the newly formed LIBRE party that is leading in the polls.

Freedom for Honduran Indigenous Leader Berta Cáceres

In September 2013, a Honduran court dictated that widely recognized social movement leader Berta Cáceres, the general coordinator of the Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Indígenas Populares – COPINH (Civic Council of Popular Indigenous Organisations), be jailed while awaiting trial in a political case aimed at destroying Indigenous resistance to a mega-project being imposed on the Lenca communities of Rio Blanco through military force.

Two additional COPINH leaders, Tomas Gomez and Aureliano Molina, are also facing charges. This is part of a growing trend of criminalizing social movement leaders across the country, just two months before Honduras' elections.

Call for freedom for Berta Cáceres, an end to the criminalization of COPINH and other social movements, and withdrawal of the military and police from the Indigenous Lenca communities of Rio Blanco.

- **On-Line Petition.** To read and sign: <http://SOAW.org/berta>
- Please scroll down, fill out the form, and hit the submit button to send messages to Honduran and U.S. officials.

HONDURAN & U.S. OFFICIALS:

- Benjamin Gedan, Honduras Desk Officer, US State Department, GedanBN@state.gov
- Liz Alvarado, US Embassy in Honduras, Alvarado-VegaLN@state.gov
- Amanda Johnson Miller, US Embassy in Honduras, Johnson-MillerA@state.gov
- German Enamorado, Fiscal de Derechos Humanos, (504)-9892-6722, genamorado06@hotmail.com
- Porfirio Lobo Sosa, Honduran government, info@presidencia.gob.hn



- Antonio Calix Hernandez, Honduran Supreme Court of Justice, hcalixh@poderjudicial.gob.hn
- Luis Green, Ministro de las Etnias, luisgreen65@yahoo.es

What To Do / Que hacer?

Repression And Violence In Honduras Do Not Just Happen – They Are Policy

Please keep on sending copies of this information, and your own letters, to your Canadian and American politicians (MPs, Congress members and Senators) and to your own media.

Since the June 2009 military coup, that ousted the democratically elected government, Honduras has become the 'Murder Capital of the world'. State repression has reached the levels of the worst years of the 1980s. Since the coup, the U.S. and Canadian governments have 'legitimized the illegitimate' post-coup regime. North American companies and investors have increased their business activities in mining, sweatshops, tourism, etc, in Honduras since the coup. In no small part, this repressive regime remains in power due to its political, economic and military relations with the U.S. and Canada.

There are no signs that this repression, violence, corruption and impunity will decrease, even as a majority of Hondurans courageously support the LIBRE political party that will participate in the November 2013 presidential elections ... in a hope of putting an end to their nightmare. Across Honduras, community based organizations in the pro-democracy movement need considerably more human rights accompaniment, media attention on the harms and violations, education and activism in Canada and the U.S., and funding.

Contact:

- Member Of Parliament: <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Parlinfo/Compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx?Menu=HOC>
- Congress: <http://www.house.gov/> to get info for your member of Congress, and call: 202-224-3121
- Senate: <http://www.senate.gov/> to get contact for your Senator, and call: 202-224-3121

Make Tax-Deductible Donations (In Canada And The U.S.)

To support grassroots organizations and their community- and environmental and human rights defense struggles in Honduras (like COPINH, that Rights Action has supported since 1998), make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- UNITED STATES: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- CANADA: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

Credit-Card Donations can be made (in Canada and U.S.): <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

- be a monthly credit card donor (Canada and U.S.)
- to donate stock, contact: info@rightsaction.org

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