

## **Canadian "Porn King" on Trial (November 13, 2015) in Honduras**

Canadian tourism operator Randy Jorgensen (the "Porn King") is charged with illegal seizure and possession of Garifuna territories for his tourism operations and investments. Other tourism operators and investors at risk, due to corruption and questionable land titles.

Photo: Randy Jorgensen with "Pepe" Lobo in the Honduran Presidential Palace. After the 2009 military coup ousted the elected government of Honduras, "Pepe" Lobo was installed as the coup-plotter's president.

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### **The Canadian "Porn King", Tourism and the Corrupted Administration of Justice in Honduras**

OFRANEH Communique, October 27, 2015

<https://ofraneh.wordpress.com/2015/10/23/las-ciudades-modelo-zede-el-rey-del-porno-y-la-manipulacion-de-la-administracion-de-justicia/>

Lands of Garífuna communities of Trujillo Bay, on the north coast of Honduras, have been seized by Canadian investor Randy Jorgensen, known in Canada and in Honduras as the "Porn King."

In 2007, Jorgensen began illegally acquiring land, as well as outright seizing land belonging to the communities of Cristales and Río Negro.

Despite the fact that the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Ethnic Groups had been duly notified of the illegal actions of the Canadian investor known as the "Porn King", Jorgensen managed to take over a sizeable area of the mountain range known as the Cordillera Nombre de Dios, as well as some areas of the Santa Fe and San Antonio beaches.

After the 2009 Honduran military coup d'etat, that was supported by the U.S. and Canadian governments, Randy Jorgensen - and the Municipality of Trujillo - invoked the Forced Expropriation Law (1913) to seize the community of Río Negro, which Jorgensen then proceeded to demolish to allow for construction of the "Banana Coast" cruise ship dock and tourist complex.

In September 2011, the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Ethnic Groups applied for an injunction in the matter of a questionable land transaction involving the sale of land to the "Porn King" by a woman called Orley Reneand. Besides illegally acquiring the land,

the Canadian investor seized another piece of land that had not been included in the illegal transaction.

In August 2013, the Civil Court in Trujillo issued an order for contempt of court in the case of Jorgensen, who ignored the Court's subpoenas. Finally, in June, 2015, the Court issued an arrest warrant, that was also ignored by Randy Jorgensen and the authorities.

Finally, in October 2015, Jorgensen reluctantly reported to the Court. The Court then set November 13 as the date for a hearing in a trial for illegal seizure and appropriation.

OFRANEH also points out that even though the Civil Court of Trujillo issued an arrest warrant for Jorgensen in June 2015, and did nothing about it, the Court acted promptly – in August and September, 2015 - in a separate case that Jorgensen initiated regarding a plot of land he claims to own in Puerto Castilla.

In August, Garifuna community members in Puerto Castilla re-occupied community land that had been taken from them decades before. These people are living in very crowded conditions and are again threatened with forced re-location as part of an expansion planned by the company known as the Empresa Nacional portuaria.

OFRANEH, along with leaders and communities of the Trujillo region, will pay close attention to this trial against the Canadian “Porn King” to ensure that justice is duly carried out, with respect for the lands, territories and culture of the Garifuna ancestors of the communities of Trujillo Bay.

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### **To Attend The Trial And For More Information**

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