

Below:

- **Gustavo Castro Freed by Honduran Regime**
- **Statement by Berta Caceres Family**

(<http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=01731a12f8>)

Activism works! And there is much work and activism left to do in the U.S. and Canada related to the corrupted criminal investigation into the assassination of Berta Caceres and attempted assassination of Gustavo Castro, and into the hundreds of political killings in Honduras since the 2009 US and Canadian backed military coup.

- To get involved: See Below

Gustavo Castro Is Free

By Beverly Bell, Other Worlds, April 1, 2016



Today, April 1 - April Fool's Day - the power of collective action has trumped the fools, killers, and thieves in the Honduran government. Gustavo Castro Soto is back in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, with his family. His return marks the end of [24 days of captivity in Honduras](#) - first in the custody of the government, which subjected him to psychological and physical torture, and then in the haven of the Mexican Embassy, because the Hondurans prohibited his departure.

Gustavo was both witness to, and twice-shot victim of, the assault that killed global social movement leader [Berta Cáceres](#) in La Esperanza, Honduras, on March 3.

The Honduran government could not stand up to the international pressure from the [US Congress](#), Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Vatican, and many other sources of pressure and denunciation. More than anything, the power of the [fraudulently-elected regime](#) could not trump that of citizens around the world, who held rallies, sent well over a hundred thousand letters, and committed themselves to continue organizing until Gustavo was freed.

The government capitulated yesterday and gave Mexican activist and writer [permission to return home](#). However, it mentioned that it may demand his subsequent return to help with the investigation.

This morning, Otros Mundos in Chiapas wrote us, "What still remains is guaranteeing security for his family and the team." We hope you will remain with us, mobilizing the power of people united, until Gustavo, members of the [Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras](#) (COPINH) (the organization that Berta co-founded 23 years ago this week) and all Hondurans have security and democracy.

To use a favorite term of Gustavo's: ¡Animo! Let's do it!

Words To The Honduran People

While unjustly detained by the Honduran regime, Gustavo published on March 15 "Words to the Honduran people."

"My wounds hurt me terribly, although they are healing. But my greater pain is for my dear Honduran people, who don't deserve this; none of us do. We've always admired this noble, brave people who are fighting for a dignified life for all, without distinction and with justice. That was Berta's struggle.

"I feel love for this beautiful country, its landscapes, its nature, and especially its people. We should not let murders cloud our hope or landscapes.

"Berta meant a lot to me, as much as she meant to you. Berta was an exceptional woman who fought for a better Honduras - more dignified, more just. Her spirit grows in the heart of the Honduran people, because we didn't bury her, but sowed her so that she can grow hope for us.

"Soon there will be justice."

Please stay tuned for more action alerts and updates at: www.otherworldsarepossible.org.

En solidaridad,
Other Worlds

Statement By Family of Berta Cáceres On One Month Anniversary of Her Assassination

<http://bertacaceres.org/statement-from-the-family-of-berta-caceres-on-the-one-month-anniversary-of-her-assassination/>

It has been almost one month since the cowardly assassination of our beloved Berta Cáceres, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt, friend and environmental and human rights leader.

Our family is grateful for the many messages and acts of condolence from hundreds, if not thousands, of you. Additionally, we are grateful to Gustavo Castro, the one material witness to the crime, for his bravery and are relieved that he is reunited with his family in Mexico.

However, we have yet to receive any kind of justice or respect, as we search for answers, from the Honduran government. Repeated formal and informal requests for information about the investigation that we should be provided with, according to Honduran law, have been denied without an explanation.

In 2014, a Honduran NGO found that less than 4% of all murder cases resulted in a conviction. Given the massive corruption within the Honduran government, and given the fact that many threats and attacks against Berta and her organization COPINH involved members of state security forces and agents of private companies with links to high-level Honduran officials, it is highly unlikely that the intellectual authors of this assassination will ever be brought to justice.

Independent International Investigation

This is why since Berta's murder we have demanded that the Honduran government agree to allow an independent international investigation with a mandate, to conduct its own investigation, similar to the group of independent experts investigating the disappearance of 43 students in Ayotzinapa, Mexico. The Honduran authorities are incapable of carrying out such a task in a neutral and professional manner.

We are dismayed that the US government – despite appeals from our family, more than 60 members of Congress and 11 U.S. senators, and from over 250 domestic and international NGOs – continues to express support in the Honduran investigative “process.”

State Department spokesperson John Kirby remarked on March 29: “it was noteworthy that they [Honduran government] reached out to the UN for support. I mean, [...] that's not insignificant.”

This statement is misleading. The UN support the Honduran government has sought is from a body – the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – whose mandate

is to prevent human rights violations and document abuses, not to conduct criminal investigations, or ensure that criminal investigations are professional and fair.

Lastly, we as a family have desperately sought obtain the most basic information regarding the current Honduran investigation into Berta's assassination, including a simple list of Berta's personal belongings that authorities have seized, and a complete autopsy report as well as a raw copy of the existing video of the autopsy.

One of the individuals responsible for denying us access to this and other information regarding the investigation is Honduras' Director of Public Attorneys Jose Arturo Duarte. Mr. Duarte has represented Desarrollos Energéticos Sociedad Anónima (DESA) in legal proceedings against COPINH, the very same company, that built the dam Berta and COPINH where fighting against and whose employees threatened Berta.

It was only after Berta's daughters revealed this major conflict of interest in a public letter that Duarte announced his withdrawal from the investigation on March 31st. The State Department was aware of this major conflict of interest, yet continues to show confidence in the Honduran investigation.

Our pursuit of justice will once again take us to Washington next Monday April 4th as Berta Zuñiga Cáceres, Berta Cáceres' daughter, COPINH member, Tomás Gómez and Silvio Carrillo, Berta Cáceres' nephew, speak with lawmakers, international banking institutions, NGOs and the State Department.

As painful as Bertita's assassination is for our family this event is now an opportunity to begin pushing back hard against Honduras' pervasive corruption, impunity and lack of rule of law. The U.S. government has enormous leverage in Honduras, through its assistance programs and veto power over multilateral loans. It's time for the U.S. to begin using that leverage to promote justice and stop the killing of social activists rather than continuing to hand the Honduran government a blank check to carry on with business as usual.

- Contact: Silvio Carrillo, 415.244.8281, Silvio.Carrillo@gmail.com

Independent International Investigation needed NOW!

Please keep on pressuring the U.S. and Canadian governments to publicly support this growing demand for the establishment of an Independent International Investigation, as set out in the Berta Caceres Family letter (above).

Short of establishing this International Investigation, impunity and corruption will continue to prevail in Honduras.

Pressure Needed in U.S. and Canada

Here, a Letter to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry; and a Letter to Canadian Government Officials: <http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=29af29c555>

Please re-send this letter, & the articles above, to your Congress Members, Senators and Member of Parliament asking that they publicly support the key demands:

- to establish the independent international judicial commission to directly join the criminal investigation in Honduras (Short of this, corruption and impunity will prevail again in Honduras);
- to call for a public inquiries into the roles that the US and Canada played in supporting the 2009 military coup and legitimizing and doing business with the post-coup regimes since then.

Funds for Family of Berta Cáceres and COPINH

Since the assassination of Berta Cáceres on March 3, 2016, Rights Action has channeled over \$15,000 to her family and to COPINH, that are at the forefront of efforts to ensure that justice is done, even as family and COPINH members are receiving threats, even as the corrupted regime is trying to 'criminalize' members of COPINH for the killing of Berta.

Tax Deductible Donations in the U.S. or Canada

Make checks to "Rights Action" (write Berta/COPINH on memo line) and mail to:

- U.S.: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

Credit-Card Donations:

- Canada: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/rights-action/>
- U.S.: <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations> (click on NetworkForGood)

Articles

- Berta Cáceres' Acceptance Speech, 2015 Goldman Environmental Prize. To view: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AR1kwx8b0ms>
- Murdered for Activism in Honduras, by Silvio Carrillo (Berta's nephew), March 11, 2016, New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/12/opinion/international/murdered-for-activism-in-honduras.html?emc=edit_tnt_20160311&nid=45556342&tntemail0=y
- Berta Cáceres: Who She Is & What She Lived For, by Grahame Russell, March 3, 2016: <http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=026d1728a3>
- Fight With Joy: Remembering Bertha Cáceres, by Sandra Cuffe, March 7, 2016: <https://intercontinentalcry.org/fight-joy-remembering-bertha-caceres/>
- Eulogy For Berta Isabel Cáceres Flores, by Bev Bell, March 9, 2016: <http://otherworldsarepossible.org/bertha-lives-life-and-legacy-bertha-caceres>

- Blood Flows Where Canadian Capital Goes, by Tyler Shipley, 03/6/2016:
<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/analysis/blood-flows-where-canadian-capital-goes-371189471.html>
- Berta Cáceres, the Murdered Honduran Activist, Did Not Die. She Multiplied, by Karen Spring, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/karen-spring/berta-caceres-murder_b_9500088.html

More Information

- www.BertaCaceres.org (established by Berta's family)
- Honduras Solidarity Network: <http://www.hondurassolidarity.org/>
- Other Worlds: <http://otherworldsarepossible.org/>
- Common Frontiers: <http://www.commonfrontiers.ca/>
- School of the Americas Watch: <http://www.soaw.org/about-the-soawhinsec/what-is-the-soawhinsec>
- Witness For Peace: <http://www.witnessforpeace.org/>

Berta Cáceres did not die, she multiplied.
Thank-you for your multiplying commitment, support and activism.
Please share this information far'n'wide.

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Join listserv: www.rightsaction.org
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