

Hillary Clinton Still Lying About and Distorting Her Role in Supporting and “Legitimizing” the 2009 Military Coup in Honduras

<http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=b2cb5f9cf2>

Below:

- New York Post report (April 10, 2016) on protesters pressuring Bill Clinton about the US government’s support for the 2009 military coup in Honduras when Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State.
- New York Daily News transcript of an interview (April 11, 2016) with Hillary Clinton wherein she again lies about and tries to “justify” US support for the 2009 military coup in Honduras.
- 2010 article by Robert Naiman, exposing how then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton contradicted her own State Department, to lie about the coup, and support and legitimize the coup plotters.
- 2010 Wikileaks cable from US embassy in Honduras, asserting that what had happened was an illegal, military coup.

This should be an election issue in the US. In the US and Canada, citizens and honest politicians should push for full Congressional, Senatorial and Parliamentary inquiries into the roles of the US and Canadian governments during the 2009 coup and since then, maintaining full political, military and economic relations with one of the most repressive, corrupt and violent regimes in the Americas.

Protesters Heckle Bill Clinton Over Berta Caceres’ Death

<http://nypost.com/2016/04/10/protesters-heckle-bill-clinton-over-activists-death/>

New York Post, By Kevin Sheehan, April 10, 2016

About two dozen protesters disrupted a campaign speech by ex-President Bill Clinton in Queens on Sunday afternoon, unfurling a banner and chanting accusations against his wife over the death of an environmental activist in Honduras.

The hecklers hid themselves in the first two rows at the New York Hall of Science and leaped to their feet about 90 seconds after Bill began stumping in support of the Democratic front-runner, who’s seeking her hubby’s former White House job.

“Hillary Clinton, you have Berta’s blood on your hands,” they shouted in Spanish in reference to Berta Caceres, who was found shot to death in her home in March.

Others in the audience tried to drown out the protesters by chanting the candidate’s first name, and most of the agitators dropped their fabric message and ran off as about eight NYPD cops rushed in — but one woman kept spouting off until she was handcuffed and hauled off.

Bill Clinton — who lost his cool when confronted by Black Lives Matter activists in Philadelphia last week <<http://nypost.com/2016/04/08/bill-spars-with-black-lives-matter-protesters-at-hillary-rally/>> — took Sunday’s incident in stride, making light of the protest before continuing with his remarks.

Outside the event, a protester said she and the others were locals opposed to Hillary Clinton’s presidential bid. “We are a network of neighbors here in Queens who can’t believe Hillary is here claiming that she is going to support the Latino communities when she is supported and funded by corporations that build and maintain for profit immigration detention centers,” the woman said.

TRANSCRIPT: Hillary Clinton meets with the Daily News Editorial Board

Daily News, April 11, 2016

<http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/transcript-hillary-clinton-meets-news-editorial-board-article-1.2596292>

Daily News: Secretary Clinton, I'd like to ask you if I can about Latin-America and the policies specifically you were directly involved in, the coup in Honduras. As you know in 2009, the military overthrew President Zelaya. There was a period there where the OAS was trying to isolate that regime, but apparently some of the emails that have come out as a result of the State Department releases show that some of your top aides were urging you to declare it a military coup, cut off U.S. aid. You didn't do that. You ended up negotiating with Oscar Arias deal for new elections.

But the situation in Honduras has continued to deteriorate. There's been 300 people killed by government forces, and all these children fleeing and mothers from Honduras over the border into United States. And just a few weeks ago, one of the leading environmental activist, Berta Cáceres, was assassinated in her home.

Do you have any concerns about the role that you played in that particular situation, even not necessarily being in agreement with your top aides in the State Department?

Clinton: Well, let me again try to put this in context. The legislature, the national legislature in Honduras and the national judiciary actually followed the law in removing President Zelaya. [Rights Action: This is absolutely false.]

Now I didn't like the way it looked or the way they did it but they had a very strong argument that they had followed the constitution and the legal precedence. [Rights Action: This is absolutely false.] And as you know, they really undercut their argument by spiriting him out of the country in his pajamas, where they sent the military to take him out of his bed and get him out of the country. So this began as a very mixed and difficult situation.

If the United States government declares a coup, you immediately have to shut off all aid including humanitarian aid, the Agency for International Development aid, the support that we were providing at that time for a lot of very poor people, and that triggers a legal necessity. There's no way to get around it. So our assessment was, we will just make the situation worse by punishing the Honduran people if we declare a coup and we immediately have to stop all aid for the people, but we should slow walk and try to stop anything that the government could take advantage of without calling it a coup.

So you're right. I worked very hard with leaders in the region and got Oscar Arias, the Nobel Prize winner, to take the lead on trying to broker a resolution. Without bloodshed. And that was very important to us that... Zelaya had friends and allies not just in Honduras but in some of the neighboring countries like Nicaragua, and that we could have had a terrible civil war that would have been just terrifying in its loss of life.

So I think we came out with a solution that did hold new elections, but it did not in any way address the structural, systemic problems in that society. And I share your concern that it's not just government actions. Drug gangs, traffickers of all kinds are preying on the people of Honduras.

So I think we need to do more of a Colombian plan for Central America, because remember what was going in Colombia when first my husband and then followed by President Bush had Plan Colombia, which was to try to use our leverage to rein in the government in their actions against the FARC and the guerillas, but also to help the government stop the advance of the FARC and guerillas.

And now we're in the middle of peace talks. It didn't happen overnight. It took a number of years, but I want to see a much more comprehensive approach towards Central America because it's just Honduras. The highest murder rate is in El Salvador and we've got Guatemala with all the problems you know so well.

So I think in retrospect we managed a very difficult situation without bloodshed, without a civil war that led to a new election, and I think that was better for the Honduran people, but we have a lot of work to do to try to help stabilize that and deal with corruption, deal with violence and the gangs and so much else.

WikiLeaks Honduras: State Dept. Busted on Support of Coup

11/29/2010, By Robert Naiman

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-naiman/wikileaks-honduras-state_b_789282.html

By July 24, 2009, the U.S. government was totally clear about the basic facts of what took place in Honduras on June 28, 2009. The U.S. embassy in Tegucigalpa sent a [cable](#) to Washington with subject: "Open and Shut: The Case of the Honduran Coup," asserting that "there is no doubt" that the events of June 28 "constituted an illegal and unconstitutional coup."

The Embassy listed arguments being made by supporters of the coup to claim its legality, and dismissed them thus: "none... has any substantive validity under the Honduran constitution."

The Honduran military clearly had no legal authority to remove President Zelaya from office or from Honduras, the Embassy said, and their action — the Embassy described it as an "abduction" and "kidnapping" — was clearly unconstitutional.

It is inconceivable that any top U.S. official responsible for U.S. policy in Honduras was not familiar with the contents of the July 24 cable, which summarized the assessment of the U.S. Embassy in Honduras on key facts that were politically disputed by supporters of the coup regime.

The cable was addressed to Tom Shannon, then Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs; Harold Koh, the State Department's Legal Adviser; and Dan Restrepo, Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the National Security Council. The cable was sent to the White House and to Secretary of State Clinton.

But despite the fact that the U.S. government was crystal clear on what had transpired, the U.S. did not immediately cut off all aid to Honduras except "democracy assistance," as required by U.S. law.

Instead, a month after this cable was sent, the State Department, in its public pronouncements, [pretended](#) that the events of June 28 — in particular, "who did what to whom" and the constitutionality of these actions — were murky and needed further study by State Department lawyers, despite the fact that the State Department's top lawyer, Harold Koh, knew exactly "who did what to whom" and that these actions were unconstitutional at least one month earlier.

The State Department, to justify its delay in carrying out U.S. law, invented a legal distinction between a "coup" and a "military coup," claiming that the State Department's lawyers had to determine whether a "military coup" took place, because only that determination would meet the legal threshold for the aid cutoff.

QUESTION: And so - sorry, just a follow-up. If this is a coup - the State Department considers this a coup, what's the next step? And I mean, there is a legal framework on the U.S. laws dealing with countries that are under coup d'état? I mean, what's holding you guys [back from taking] other measures according [to] the law?

SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ONE: I think what you're referring to, Mr. Davila, is whether or not this is - has been determined to be a military coup. And you're correct that there are provisions in our law that have to be applied if it is determined that this is a military coup. And frankly, our lawyers are looking at that exact question. And when we get the answer to that, you are right, there will be things that - if it is determined that this was a military coup, there will be things that will kick in.

As you know, on the ground, there's a lot of discussion about who did what to whom and what things were constitutional or not, which is why our lawyers are really looking at the event as we understand them in order to come out with the accurate determination.

But the July 24 cable shows that this was nonsense. The phrase "military coup" occurs nowhere in the document, a remarkable omission in a cable from the Embassy presenting the Embassy's analysis of the June 28 events, their constitutionality and legality one month after the fact, if that were a crucial distinction in assessing U.S. policy. And indeed, initial press reports on the statements of top U.S. officials in response to the coup [made no such distinction](#), using the descriptions "coup" and "military coup" interchangeably.

Why did the State Department drag its feet, pretending that facts which it knew to be clear-cut were murky? Why didn't the State Department speak publicly after July 24 with the same moral clarity as the July 24 cable from the Embassy in Honduras?

Had the State Department shared publicly the Embassy's clear assessment of the June 28 events after July 24, history might have turned out differently, because supporters of the coup in the United States — including Republican Members of Congress and media talking heads — continued to dispute basic facts about the coup which the US Embassy in Honduras had reported were not subject to reasonable dispute, and U.S. media reporting on the coup continued to describe these facts as subject to reasonable dispute, long after the Embassy had firmly declared that they were not.

As the Center for Economic and Policy Research noted in an August 2009 [report](#), in the previous 12 months the U.S. had responded to other coups by cutting U.S. aid within days. In these cases — in Africa — there was no lengthy deliberation on whether a "coup" was a "military coup."

What was the difference?

A key difference was that Honduras is in Central America, “our backyard,” so different rules applied. Top officials in Washington supported the political aims of the coup. They did not nominally support the means of the coup, as far as we know, but they supported its political end: the removal of the ability of President Zelaya and his supporters to pursue a meaningful reform project in Honduras.

On the other hand, they were politically constrained not to support the coup openly, since they knew it to be illegal and unconstitutional. Thus, they pursued a “diplomatic compromise,” which would “restore constitutional order” while achieving the coup’s central political aim: removal of the ability of President Zelaya and his supporters to pursue a meaningful reform project in Honduras. The effect of their efforts at “diplomatic compromise” was to allow the coup to stand, a result that these supporters of the coup’s political aims were evidently content with.

Why does this matter now?

First, the constitutional and political crisis in Honduras is ongoing, and the failure of the U.S. to take immediate, decisive action in response to the coup was a significant cause of the ongoing crisis. After nominally opposing the coup, and slowly and fitfully implementing partial sanctions against the coup regime in a way that did not convince the coup regime that the U.S. was serious, the U.S. moved to support elections under the coup regime which were not recognized by the rest of the hemisphere, and today the U.S. is lobbying for the government created by that disputed election to be readmitted to the Organization of American States, in opposition to most of the rest of the hemisphere, despite ongoing, major violations of human rights in Honduras, about which the U.S. is doing essentially nothing.

[...]

July 24, 2009 US Embassy in Honduras Cable

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2010/11/28/world/20101128-cables-viewer.html?hp&_r=0#report/cables-09TEGUCIGALPA645

1. (C) Summary: Post has attempted to clarify some of the legal and constitutional issues surrounding the June 28 forced removal of President Manuel "Mel" Zelaya. The Embassy perspective is that there is no doubt that the military, Supreme Court and National Congress conspired on June 28 in what constituted an illegal and unconstitutional coup against the Executive Branch, while accepting that there may be a prima facie case that Zelaya may have committed illegalities and may have even violated the constitution. There is equally no doubt from our perspective that Roberto Micheletti's assumption of power was illegitimate. [...] . End summary.

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 the article above and these letters to your elected politicians, pressuring them to publicly support the key demands:

- The establishment of the independent international judicial commission to directly join the criminal investigation into the assassination of Berta Cáceres and attempted assassination of Gustavo Castro;
- The establishment of Congressional, Senate and Parliamentary inquiries into the role that the U.S. and Canada played in supporting the 2009 military coup and legitimizing and doing business with the post-coup regimes since then.

Funds Needed for Family of Berta Cáceres and COPINH

Since the assassination of Berta Cáceres on March 3, 2016, Rights Action has channeled over \$23,000 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&nlid=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
- Death Squads Are Back In Honduras, Activists Tell Congress, by Alex Emmons, <https://theintercept.com/2016/04/12/death-squads-are-back-in-honduras-honduran-activists-tell-congress/>

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 and activism. Please share this information far’n’wide.

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