

BBC news report, 10 July 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-36756937>

World Anger Over Honduras Activist Lesbia Yaneth Urquia's Death [... but no end to propping up regime]

(<http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=a8433a7ee4>)



REUTERS - Thousands of people followed Lesbia Yaneth Urquia's coffin at her funeral on Friday, July 8, 2016

The UN, EU and other international organisations have condemned the murder on Wednesday of a prominent environmental activist in Honduras. Lesbia Yaneth Urquia was killed four months after the shooting of award-winning environmentalist Berta Caceres. Both women had spent years campaigning against a giant dam.

More than 100 people have died in Honduras in five years for opposing dams, mining, logging and agriculture projects, human rights groups say.

[Rights Action: Actually, many hundreds of people have been assassinated and disappeared, for political reasons, since the U.S. and Canadian-supported coup on June 28, 2009.]

In a statement, the EU said urgent steps needed to be taken to fight impunity and protect human rights activists. "This killing as well as the climate of violence that continues to prevail over human rights activists in the country is an extremely worrying development," it said.

The body of Ms Urquia, 49, was found abandoned on a rubbish dump in the municipality of

Marcala about 160km (100 miles) west of the capital, Tegucigalpa.



REUTERS - A woman shows a picture of Lesbia Yaneth Urquia at her funeral.

A mother of three children, she was a member of the Council of Indigenous People of Honduras (Copinh) - the organisation founded by Caceres - and had been working to stop a hydroelectric project in Honduras's western La Paz department.

Copinh said in a statement on its website: "The death of Lesbia Yaneth is a political femicide that tries to silence the voices of women with the courage and bravery to defend their rights." "We hold the Honduras government directly responsible for this murder."

Violence in Honduras has increased since July 2009 when President Manuel Zelaya was forced from power. A new right-wing government licensed hundreds of infrastructure projects including mines and hydroelectric dams in environmentally sensitive areas.

In the US, politicians have been expressing concern about the violence. Last week, Congressman Hank Johnson put before the House of Representatives the Berta Caceres Human Rights Act, which would suspend US security assistance until human rights violations by security forces ended.

[Rights Action: While certain US politicians have been speaking out, clearly, there has as yet been no policy changes in the US's carte blanche support for Honduran regime. In Canada, a deafening silence emanates from the government, as Canada as well continues with "business as usual" with the regime.]

Petition to Government of Canada Concerning Human Rights Violations, Repression and Impunity in Honduras

Initiated by Jen Moore and sponsored by member of parliament Elizabeth May, this e-petition calls on the Canadian government to urge Honduran authorities to agree to an independent, international investigation into the March 2nd assassination of Berta Caceres. It is available for sign-ons until October 12, 2016. Once we reach the 500 mark, the Clerk of Petitions will validate the signatures and decide whether or not to certify the petition. With this certificate, a member of parliament can present the petition in the House of Commons, obliging the Canadian Government to then table a response in the House within 45 days. Please circulate this widely among your networks in order to achieve the greatest number of signatures possible.

- Petition available here: <https://petitions.parl.gc.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-412>

More Information

COPINH

Escuchenos en vivo: <http://b.stream.mayfirst.org:8000/guarajambala.org/> / web: copinh.org/ / blog: copinhonduras.blogspot.com / fb: Copinh Intibucá / twitter: @COPINHHONDURAS / Copinh mailing list: Copinh@listas.codigosur.org, <https://listas.codigosur.org/mailman/listinfo/copinh>

Funds for COPINH and family of Berta Caceres

To support work and struggle for justice and for fundamental transformation and change in Honduras, make tax-deductible donations to "Rights Action" 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)

Please share and re-post

More info: info@rightsaction.org

Join Listserv: www.rightsaction.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RightsAction>, @RightsAction
