

Canadian/American tourism illegal land purchases and repression against local Garifuna people in Honduras

(<http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=0829ad9fd4>)

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- Urgent actions: Honduras Solidarity Network (English) / OFRANEH (Spanish)
- What to do / How to support Garifuna people



(Photo OFRANEH, Nov. 10, 2016. OFRANEH documents how Canadian/American tourism investors and companies were seen providing food and beverages to Honduran police after illegal eviction of Garifuna people from their lands.)

Tourism Company/Honduran Police Repression Against Garifuna People in Honduras

By Karen Spring (Honduras Solidarity Network), Nov. 10, 2016

This afternoon, approximately 4 pm, Honduran police surrounded a land recuperation effort in the Garifuna community of Guadalupe, municipality of Santa Fe, Colon. The police detained Medeline David, a Garifuna woman between 25 and 28 years old, who has been very active in

recuperating Garifuna land that has been illegally acquired by Americans and Canadians, to build large-scale tourism projects including gated communities, resorts, a cruise ship dock.



(Photo OFRANEH, Nov.10, 2016. Medeline David)

Medeline was beaten by police in the process of being detained. She is accused by the corrupted Honduras legal system of 'land usurpation' by a Canadian company, Carivida (<http://www.carivida.com/resort.html>) , owned by Patrick Daniel Forseth, who illegally purchased the land. Not only is the land inside a communally-owned title dating back to the 1800s, but it is also a piece of land with a re-affirmed title to Guadalupe from 1998.

The land recuperation processes in the Trujillo Bay area, in at least six different Garifuna communities, are being led by Garifuna youth, many of which have been deported from the United States. They arrive back to their communities and find their lands have been effectively stolen by Canadians and Americans illegally purchasing Garifuna land for their vacation homes.

The main "developer" in the region is the Canadian Randy Jorgensen (labeled the "porn king" by Maclean's magazine, Oct.11, 1993) because he established pornography distribution networks across Canada and on-line) and there are various other Canadian and American developers – such as CARIVIDA - flooding the area to convert it into a 'Honduran Cancun'.

This has led – particularly since the 2009 military coup, backed by the governments of the U.S. and Canada, that ousted Honduras' last democratically elected government - to repression, criminalization, and the robbery of land from the Garifuna communities in the area.

Like Medeline David, at least four others are accused of the same trumped up charges.

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Alerta Urgente – Turismo & Represion

By OFRANEH, November 11, 2016

OFRANEH (Fraternal Black and Garifuna Organization of Honduras) published this urgent action. OFRANEH is the leading Garifuna territorial and human rights defense organization in Honduras.

Un llamado urgente a la Comunidad Internacional para pronunciarse en contra de los atropellos de los que han sido objeto compañeros de la comunidad Garifuna en Honduras.

En la zona de Colon, específicamente en la comunidad Garífuna de Guadalupe, la policía, por órdenes giradas por el Juez, desconociendo el derecho que tienen los pobladores a la ocupación del territorio según documentación oficial y los convenios internacionales tal es el caso del Convenio 169 de la Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT), acusándolos por el delito de usurpación.

Esta orden fue girada en fecha 3 de Noviembre de 2016, y que ha sido cumplida a cabalidad por la policía local el día de hoy 11 de Noviembre de 2016 , a causa de la denuncia interpuesta por la empresa CARIVIDA, misma que es dirigida por un grupo de CANADIENSES, encabezado por Randy Jorgenson.

En dicha acción fueron detenidas 5 personas entre ellas, Medelin David Hernandez y Cosme Henriquez, existiendo una orden de captura para Cesar Geovany Bernardes quien al momento del asalto no se encontraba en la comunidad.

Condenamos y repudiamos estos actos completamente alejados de las leyes, LA COMUNIDAD GARIFUNA TIENE DERECHOS. Y los jóvenes de nuestra comunidad están defendiendo el legado de nuestros ANCESTROS para que las generaciones futuras tengan un espacio digno donde crecer como comunidad.

Repudiamos y condenamos aún mas la cobardía y la saña desplegada en todo su esplendor al hacer uso indiscriminado de la fuerza en contra de una mujer, que a todas luces es un ser valiente, que soporto los golpes y que en estos momentos está recluida en una celda en la posta policial de Trujillo Colón.

Otro acto por demás repudiable se observa en una de las fotografías adjuntas, en la cual los policías han sido invitados a un REFRIGERO por parte de los CANADIENSES luego de la AZAÑA realizada, reprimiendo, golpeando y encarcelando hombres y mujeres valientes de la comunidad Garífuna. Por lo que llamamos al ORDEN a todo el aparato legal en Honduras, exigiendo un cese inmediato y definitivo a este tipo de atropello ya frecuente en contra de los pueblos Indígenas y Negros.

OFRANEH (Organizacion Fraternal Negra Hondureña)

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What to do?

By Honduras Solidarity Network

- Call Trujillo police station and demand to know about Medeline's medical and legal condition.
- Call judge in Trujillo who will be hearing Medeline's case, to ask about the legal merits of her detention and about the beating. Ask him also why he never issued a detention order against Randy Jorgensen for not showing up in court, on numerous occasions, to defend himself against illegal land possession in a separate but similar case.
- Go to CARIVIDA Resort's website and send your complaints about their treatment of Garifuna communities. Tell them you are making it publicly known they are trying to sell to North American purchasers lands illegally and sometimes violently acquired, while criminalizing local Garifuna people.
- Write Canadian representatives in Honduras and the Canadian Embassy and ask why Canadian companies and investors are criminalizing Garifuna youth and stealing their land.

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- Trujillo Police Station: 011-504-2434-3211
- Police Official in charge in Trujillo: 011-504-9530-1071
- Judge Victor Melendez in Trujillo: 011-504-9992-7928
- CARIVIDA: Go to website and send them an email <http://www.carivida.com/contact-us.html>
- Canadian Embassy: Claude Beausejour, Director, Development Program for Central America, Minister of World Issues, Canada. Based in Tegucigalpa. claud.beausejour@international.gc.ca tel: 011-504-2232-4551

In Depth Conversation with Miriam Miranda of OFRANEH about the Garífuna People

<http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=c7aadc14f1>

(Recorded by Warwick Fry (Latin Radical), June 9, 2016, in the office of OFRANEH in Sambo Creek, during a Rights Action / Mir Peace Centre delegation to Honduras, June 4-12, 2016. Translation to english by Grahame Russell of Rights Action.)

Miriam Miranda speaks about: the history of the Garífuna people in northern Honduras; and about the negative impacts, repression and human rights violations caused by the 2009 U.S. and Canadian-backed military coup; by the Canadian and U.S. driven tourism industry (including discussion of the role of Randy Jorgensen, the Canadian “porn king”); by the U.S. led “war on drugs”; and by climate change and the resultant repression and human rights violations caused by the African palm production industry and hydro-electric dam building industries; the long history of U.S. domination in Honduras;

How to support?

Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & United States)

To support community, human rights and environmental defense organizations in Honduras and Guatemala (such as OFRANEH, a Rights Action partner since 1998), working and struggling for justice and for fundamental change from the local to global levels, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

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