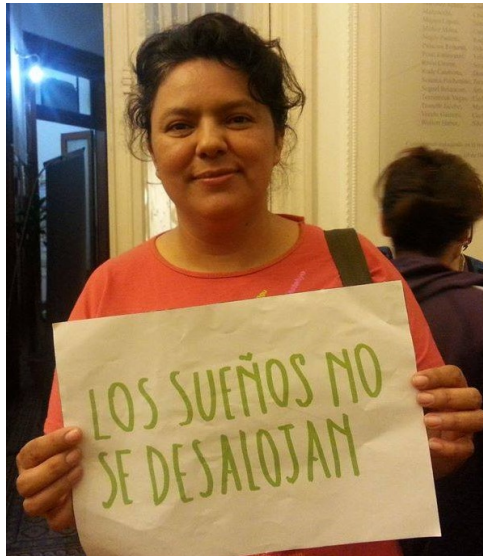


Unresolved assassination of Berta Caceres

(<http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=14ae353cea>)

- Statement from Berta Caceres family concerning arrest of alleged 7th 'material' author
- Statement from survivor Gustavo Castro, filing accusation against Honduran State



Public statement concerning the arrest of Henry Javier Hernandez Rodriguez

January 15, 2017

The legal team representing the daughters, son and mother of Berta Caceres, as well as COPINH (Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras), since the arrest of Henry Javier Hernandez Rodriguez, declares:

a) Henry Javier Hernandez Rodriguez has been charged by the Honduran Public Prosecutor with the assassination of Berta Caceres and was issued an arrest warrant. According to the theory of the Public Prosecutor, Hernandez Rodriguez is a retired private in the Honduran military, and was a direct material author of the crime and is connected with two other soldiers who have been accused and imprisoned.

b) Mr. Douglas Geovanny Bustillo and Mariano Diaz Chavez, both with the officer rank of Major - Bustillo was retired and Chavez was active at the time of the assassination of Berta.

c) The criminal charge against Hernandez Rodriguez is not new. What we expect is progress in the investigation against the criminal structure, the intellectual authors that gave the order to

execute the crime. We also continue to wait for criminal charges against senior government officials, and against the Honduran government, that had specific duties to protect the life of Berta Cáceres and instead of protecting her, put her at greater risk.

d) We learned of the capture of Hernandez Rodriguez from the media! The Public Prosecutor has not made any attempts at communicating with us. We regret that this institution continues ignoring the rights of victims, maintaining an illegal and unjust secrecy.

e) A plea hearing has been scheduled on the 16th of January at 10am for Hernandez Rodriguez and on January 19th a preliminary hearing will be held for Sergio Ramon Rodriguez Orellana, Douglas Geovanny Bustillo, Atilio Edilson Duarte Meza, Mariano Diaz Chavez, Elvin Emerson Duarte and Heriberto Meza Rápalo Orellana. We will attend these hearings as Private Prosecutors, with the disadvantage of not knowing whether the Public Prosecutor has made any progress in the investigations into the facts of the case and the participation of the accused.

f) We advise the public that in the little bits of information we have learned of the investigation, serious inconsistencies and weaknesses in the Public Prosecutor's approach to the case have become evident. These inconsistencies and weaknesses can be interpreted as strategic actions to create impunity for the criminal structure, the intellectual authors that masterminded the crime against Berta Cáceres.

We reaffirm our commitment to achieve comprehensive truth and justice of this crime. We will continue to demand that the state of secrecy surrounding the investigation be lifted for the victims and we demand that independent international experts be included in the current investigation.

January 2017.

Gustavo Castro files formal accusation against Honduran State

<http://movimientom4.org/2017/01/gustavo-castro-interpone-denuncias-contra-el-estado-hondureno/>

More than ten months after the murder of Berta Cáceres and the assassination attempt against the environmentalist Gustavo Castro, member of Otros Mundos, the Office of the Public Prosecutor has yet to formulate charges against the person who shot him.

The investigations to clarify the incidents have led to the detention of seven people. Nevertheless, it is unknown if these investigations will contribute to shedding light on the intellectual authorship of public officials and members of the management of the Energy Development Company (DESA), because the case continues to be investigated in secret. The leadership of COPINH (Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras) and the family of Berta Cáceres are left defenseless by this secrecy.

Gustavo Castro's lawyers in Mexico and Honduras, Miguel Àngel de los Santos and Edy Tábora, have filed an accusation before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) against the Honduran State for human rights violations against Gustavo Castro when he was retained in that country during the month of March of 2016.

According to the accusation, both the Public Prosecutor and Judge Victorina Flores of the First Court of La Esperanza, Intibucá, as well as the Supreme Court of Justice, violated the human rights of Gustavo Castro by retaining him in the country in an unconstitutional manner and for the negative resolution to the Habeas Corpus presented by his lawyers, with more than eleven Amicus Curiae, on June 16, 2016.

The accusation was presented before the IACHR in December 2016 and a criminal accusation was presented against Judge Victorina Flores of the La Esperanza, Intibucá court in January 2017.

Gustavo Castro and his lawyers consider it extremely serious that the Appeals Court Judge María Luisa Ramos removed the court file on the assassination of the social leader Berta Cáceres from the court offices. This same file had been stolen at the end of last September and further legal action may still be taken.

Lastly, the environmental activist and human rights defender Gustavo Castro is currently receiving the support of international organizations to ensure his protection and the defense of his human rights.

Source: [Otros Mundos Chiapas/AC](#)

Why So Many Central Americans Flee North, Decade After Decade?

The exploitation and poverty, violence and government repression, corruption and impunity of Honduras and Guatemala are "American" and "Canadian" issues. The U.S. and Canadian governments, the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank, and North American companies and investors (including pension funds) maintain profitable economic and military relations with the Guatemalan and Honduran regimes, turning a blind eye and/or directly contributing to environmental harms, exploitation, repression, corruption and impunity that are the norm in these countries, that force so many to flee.



Funding for Berta Caceres' Family & COPINH

Since 1998, Rights Action has been funding the community development, indigenous rights and environmental defense work of COPINH. Since Berta's assassination –March 3, 2016-, we have doubled our funding efforts to Berta Caceres' family and COPINH. (Full proposal available on request). Make cheque payable 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

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