

Members of Congress make public statements concerning threats to Berta Cáceres' family in Honduras

(Share/ View in Browser: <http://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/members-of-congress-make-statements-concerning-bertha-caceres-family>)

Please send copies of these statements to your Congress Member, Senator or Members of Parliament, asking them to release their own statements concerning the safety of Berta's family



Berta Isabel Cáceres Flores
March 4, 1971 - March 3, 2016

Berta Cáceres was a Honduran environmental activist, indigenous leader of her people, and co-founder and coordinator of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras.

Call your Representative
Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121

Call your Representative today and ask them to co-sponsor the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act, HR 5474

For a call script and more information, visit SOAW.org

Background

"17 months of impunity since the assassination of Berta Cáceres and shooting of Gustavo Castro: Berta's family under constant attack" (<http://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/17-months-of-impunity-since-the-assassination-of-bertha>)

From Honduras to Venezuela

Honduras' descent into having the highest levels of repression and violence, corruption and impunity in the Americas - highlighted by the March 3, 2016 assassination of Berta Cáceres - began when the U.S. and Canada legitimized and supported the June 28, 2009, military coup that ousted the government of Honduras.

From the nightmare of Honduras, now the U.S. and Canada are supporting – overtly and covertly – violent efforts for illegal, violent government change in Venezuela, which can only take complicated situations and make them way worse.

Rep. Ellison Statement on Threats to Berta Cáceres' Family

Aug 1, 2017

<https://ellison.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-ellison-statement-on-threats-to-berta-c-ceres-family>

Rep. Keith Ellison issued the following statement after reports surfaced that members of Berta Cáceres' family have been repeatedly harassed and threatened. Berta Cáceres' was a prominent human and environment rights activist who was murdered in March 2016.

“I am horrified at the continued attacks against Berta Cáceres's family and organization, the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH). Instead of receiving justice for Berta Cáceres's murder, their lives are being threatened. I call on the Honduran authorities to provide the protections requested both for the Cáceres family and for other civil society activists who continue to face violence, threats, and intimidation.”

“I will continue to monitor the Cáceres family's well-being as well as the investigation into Berta Cáceres's assassination, and I stand in solidarity with the family and community in their calls for justice.”

Schakowsky statement on the threats made to Berta Caceres' family

July 28, 2017

<https://schakowsky.house.gov/press-releases/schakowsky-statement-on-the-threats-made-to-berta-caceres-family/>

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, a Chief Deputy Whip and member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, issued the following statement after the family of slain human and environmental rights activist Berta Caceres reported being harassed and violently threatened:

“The murder of Berta Caceres was a cruel and cold-blooded blow to human, labor, and environmental rights in Honduras,” said Rep. Schakowsky. “Now, her family has reported that they have been the victims of widespread harassment and violent threats. These reports are shocking and painful reminders of the hateful threats received by Berta herself for years leading up to her assassination. The violence and danger faced by activists fighting for civil rights in Honduras are unacceptable and should not be ignored by the international community. As we work to improve this state of affairs, I will continue to demand that the intellectual and material authors of Berta's murder are brought to justice.”

Kaptur Statement On Threats To Human Rights Defenders In Honduras

August 2, 2017

<https://kaptur.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/kaptur-statement-threats-human-rights-defenders-honduras>

TOLEDO -- Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-9) issued the following statement of concern related to the escalation of risk for human rights defenders in Honduras.

"I join the United Nations Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights and my colleagues in Congress in registering grave concern regarding the violent escalation of intimidating threats toward rights defenders in Honduras. Jesuit priest Ismael Moreno, Padre Melo, the entire team of Radio Progreso and ERIC-SJ, the family of slain environmentalist Berta Cáceres, and Berta Oliva, director of COFADEH (Committee of the Detained and Disappeared of Honduras) are all under threat.

"Statements made by public authorities in Honduras discrediting the work of human rights defenders and journalists put them at risk of physical harm and undermine freedom of speech. These precious advocates for liberty deserve the support and protection of the international community.

"Prior to her brutal murder in 2016, indigenous rights defender, Bertha Cáceres was targeted extensively by similar threats and intimidation. The alarming increase in threats to defenders of human rights in recent weeks underscores our responsibility to support the Bertha Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act, to speak out on behalf of those at risk, and to insist that the government of Honduras respect, affirm, and protect the full exercise of the rights of all its people."

Kaptur is a lead sponsor of the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act (HR 1299), which would suspend U.S. funding to the Republic of Honduras for their police and military operations, including funds for equipment and training, until the Honduran government investigates credible reports indicating the police and military are violating citizens' human rights, prohibit international loans providing for security assistance – from being dispersed unless Honduras makes serious inroads to addressing blatant human rights violations by police and military forces.

In the U.S.

Demand that your Member of Congress co-sponsor The Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act (H.R. 1299)

<https://bertavivecopinhsigue.copinh.org/article/the-berta-caceres-human-rights-in-honduras-act-hr-/>

Here, an update of a video of Bertita Zuniga Cáceres (daughter of Berta) calling for the passing of this bill: <https://vimeo.com/206184044>

More information

- COPINH: www.copinh.org; <https://bertavivecopinhsgue.copinh.org/>;
copinhonduras.blogspot.com; <http://copinhenglish.blogspot.com/>
- Karen Spring, Honduras Solidarity Network, spring.kj@gmail.com
- Grahame Russell, Rights Action, info@rightsaction.org

Tax Deductible Donations in the U.S. and Canada

Since 1998, Rights Action has been funding the community development, indigenous rights and environmental defense work of COPINH. Make checks 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 in Canada and U.S.: <http://rightsaction.org/donate/>

Join listserv: www.rightsaction.org

FB: www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org

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

Please re-post and re-publish this information
