

The Only Way To Defend Democracy In Honduras

Day #20: Resistance to electoral fraud and repression by U.S. & Canadian-backed regime

Photo-essay by Grahame Russell, Rights Action

- <http://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/the-only-way-to-defend-democracy-in-honduras>

Don't stop calling and pressuring elected officials in the U.S. and Canada. This "crisis" in Honduras is a U.S. and Canadian public policy issue. Since the June 2009 military coup, our governments have strongly supported and promoted business and investments with a series of repressive and anti-democratic, corrupt and fraudulent regimes in Honduras.



- **What to do:** See below
- **Matching donor:** Two anonymous donors will match donations, up to a total of \$35,000, made by December 31, 2017.

Across the country, people of all ages and walks of life are in the streets protesting blatant electoral fraud by the government of Juan Orlando Hernandez and his National Party who are trying to steal these elections from the rightful President-elect Salvador Nasralla and the Opposition Alliance party.



Elections were held on Sunday Nov. 26. Late that evening it became apparent that JOH (Juan Orlando Hernandez) was losing by an unsurmountable margin. The voting computer system then “crashed” for a few hours, and the blatant electoral fraud began. The Honduran people took to the streets.



Gilberto Ríos grillo

@Grillo779



Condenamos el asesinato de la compañera Kimberly Dayanna Fonseca, por la Policía Militar en la Col. Honduras. ¡#JOH Asesino!



Since that day, massive numbers of Hondurans have been in the streets, day and night, fighting for their democracy, suffering military and police repression. According to COFADEH (committee of family members of disappeared and detained Hondurans), and other human rights groups, over 20 people have been killed, 100s wounded, 100s illegally detained.



#ALERT: Military fires on protestors forcing them to flee to the mountains, including Berta Caceres' daughter and ex-husband (December 15, 2017). Soldiers with the 10th Infantry Batallion based in Marcala, La Paz, fired bullets at protestors at a roadblock in the Municipio de Jesús de Otoro, departament of Intibucá. The citizens had to flee into the mountains. Indigenous rights defenders

Salvador Zuniga and his daughter Berta Zúniga Cáceres, coordinator of COPINH (Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations) were at the blockcade, as well as Lenin Laínez, alternate to the candidacy of Olivia Zúniga Cáceres, another daughter of Berta Caceres and Salvado Zuniga. The 10th Infantry Battallion is one of the most feared in Honduras since the 1980s, when they routinely disappeared and tortured people at that time.





The Honduran people know that their only choice to take back their democracy from the U.S. and Canadian-backed regimes -corruptly and repressively in power since 2009- is in the streets.

The Honduran people know that the “international community” – primarily the U.S. and Canada, and also the World Bank and a host of global companies and investors – is complicit in its support for and business with the regimes since 2009, turning a blind eye to the repression, corruption and impunity.

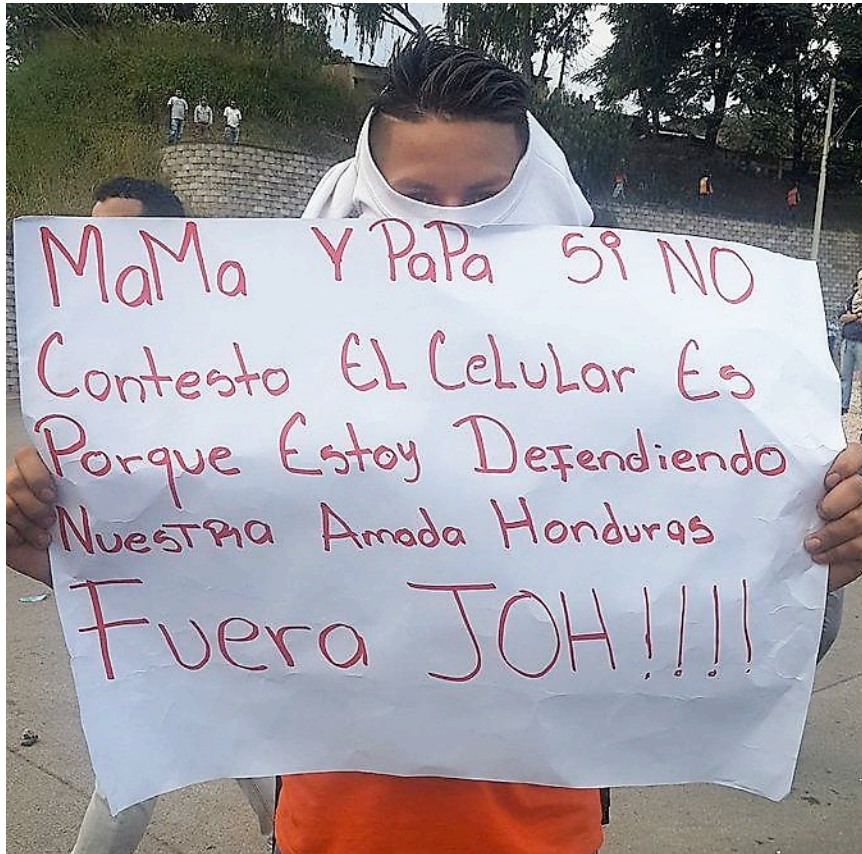
The Honduran people know that the media in the U.S. and particularly in Canada have largely censored the story of Honduras’ 8 years of repressive, corrupt regimes, and the complicit role of the U.S. and Canada.



("Down with JOH – Narco-Dictator". This spray-paint is much more than a slogan. Regime leader Juan Orlando Hernandez (JOH) – trying to steal the elections - is directly linked to organized crime and narco-trafficking. The same is true for many of Honduras' political-economic-military elites that carried out the US & Canadian-backed coup in 2009 and have been in power since.)







(Mom & Dad, if I don't answer your call, it is because I am in the streets fighting for our beloved Honduras. JOH out!)

What to do

U.S.: Call the Capital Switchboard to get contact information for your Senators and Representatives: (202) 224-3121. Get their phone numbers and email addresses. Send them copies of this and other information. Insist that they agree to the demands below. Share your efforts with the media, family, friends and networks.

Canada: Call on Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland to take a strong stand concerning electoral fraud, repression and violence in Honduras. Read and sign and share: <http://www.codev.org/2017/12/urgent-action-honduras/>

Find your MP contact information by entering your postal code here: <http://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>. Get their phone numbers and email addresses. Send them copies of this and other information. Insist that they agree to the demands below. Share your efforts with the media, family, friends and networks.

These are U.S. and Canadian problems - please do not write your letters of protest to the Honduran government. Through our denunciations and activism, we have to hold the “international community” –particularly the U.S. and Canada– accountable for their complicity with Honduras’ now endemic repression, fraud, corruption and impunity.

If political and legal accountability is not brought to bear on the military, economic and political backers of the Honduran regime, the repression, corruption and impunity – and suffering of the Honduran people - will not stop.

Demands - short term

U.S. and Canadian governments and elected politicians must:

- condemn the multiple acts of electoral fraud carried out by government of Juan Orlando Hernandez;
- condemn the acts of police and military repression against anti-electoral fraud protesters and other citizens;
- state that the government of Juan Orlando Hernandez will be held accountable for all electoral fraud and repression taking place;
- suspend all economic, military and police related relations with the corrupt government in power;
- advocate for a complete recount of ALL votes, carried out under full national and international supervision, or for a new run-off election held under full national and international supervision.

Demands - medium and longer term

There must be legislative and senate inquiries in the U.S. and Canada into the causes of Honduras’ endemic repression and exploitation, corruption and impunity, with specific focus on the role played by the U.S. and Canadian governments:

- supporting the 2009 military coup;

- supporting and legitimizing fraudulent and violent elections in 2009, 2013 and 2017 (though the 2017 elections remain unresolved);
- supporting the expansion of corporate interests in Honduras (sectors of mining, garment “sweatshop” industry, bananas, hydro-electric dams, tourism, etc.), while turning a blind eye to and – in effect – benefitting from repression, fraud, corruption and impunity.

More information / Get involved

- Rights Action: info@rightsaction.org, www.rightsaction.org, www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org, <https://twitter.com/RightsAction>
- Honduras Solidarity Network: <http://www.hondurassolidarity.org/>, <https://www.facebook.com/HondurasSolidarityNetwork>, <https://twitter.com/hondurassol>
- Witness for Peace: www.witnessforpeace.org, <https://twitter.com/WitnessforPeace>,
- School of Americas Watch: www.soaw.org, <https://twitter.com/SOAWatch>
- La Voz de los de Abajo: <https://www.facebook.com/lavozchicago/>, @lavozchicago

Emergency relief funds - Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)

- **Matching donor:** Two anonymous donors will match donations, up to a total of \$35,000, made by December 31, 2017.

As the Honduran people courageously protest against electoral fraud and repression, they are suffering the consequences of military and police repression. Rights Action is sending relief funds to our long-term partner groups in Honduras - COPINH and OFRANEH- and other community groups for their community development, environmental and human rights defense work, and their emergency work in response to electoral fraud and repression. Make check 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

Credit-Card Donations: <http://rightsaction.org/donate/>

Donations of stock? Write to: info@rightsaction.org

Please share and repost this information
info@rightsaction.org, www.rightsaction.org
Subscribe to e-Newsletter: www.rightsaction.org
www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org
<https://twitter.com/RightsAction>
