

Dear President Juan Orlando Hernández,

We, a group of 50+ international organisations, write to express our shock and concern over the recent killing of Berta Cáceres, environmental activist and head of the indigenous rights group COPINH.

As you will know, Mrs Cáceres was shot dead by gunmen in the late hours of 2 March 2016. Over the years she had received multiple death threats and attempted kidnappings because of her work defending indigenous Lenca land against the Agua Zarca dam project in Río Blanco.¹ These threats had escalated in recent weeks since construction of the dam had restarted.

We demand an independent international investigation into the circumstances around Mrs Cáceres' death, and guaranteed protection for her family and colleagues. Mrs Cáceres was granted emergency protection measures by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights because of her acute vulnerability, but she claimed the Honduran state did not fully implement them.

We also demand [urgent action](#) to protect Gustavo Castro Soto, a Mexican activist who witnessed her assassination, and to ensure his safe passage back to Mexico.

Mrs Cáceres' case is the most high-profile killing within a growing trend in the murder, violence and intimidation of people defending their indigenous land rights in Honduras. Honduras is the world's most dangerous country per capita to be an environmental or land defender, with at least 109 people killed between 2010 and 2015.

Mrs Cáceres' case has not escaped international attention. In a [statement issued](#) in response to her death U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy called on you to find and punish those responsible for "this despicable crime." Last year, US Senator Barbara Boxer [wrote a letter to](#) US Secretary of State John Kerry urging for better protection of environmental defenders in Honduras. This was in direct response to Mrs Cáceres winning the 2015 Goldman Environment Prize – a prestigious award recognizing grassroots environmental activists from around the world. News of her death has generated substantial international media attention.

The 50+ international organisations listed below call on the Honduran state to ensure indigenous peoples' right to their land is respected and that they are able to carry out their legitimate work without fear for their safety.

Yours faithfully,

Goldman Environmental Prize
Front Line Defenders
Global Witness
Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
Bank Information Center
Amazon Watch
AIDA (Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente)
Oakland Institute (USA)
Environmental Investigation Agency US (EIA US)
Greenpeace International

Greenpeace USA
Greenpeace Aotearoa New Zealand:
Greenpeace in Central & Eastern Europe
Greenpeace International
Greenpeace Greece
Greenpeace in Central & Eastern Europe
EarthRights International
Global Green Grants Fund
International Service for Human Rights
War on Want
Friends of the Earth International
Friends of the Earth US
Peace Brigades International
EcoWaste Coalition
Right Livelihood Award Foundation
Jenifer Altman Foundation
Earthjustice
Rainforest Action Network
International Rivers
CESTA/Friends of the Earth El Salvador and Goldman Prize winner
National Toxics Network Inc.
Secrétaire Général Alternatives Durables pour le Développement
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Lynn Henning, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project, 2010 Goldman winner
The Story of Stuff Project
Greenpeace Australia Pacific
Pesticide Action Network Aotearoa New Zealand
Red de Acción en Plaguicidas y Alternativas en México (RAPAM)
CEO - ESTAMOS
South Durban Community Environmental Alliance
Jan Chetana
People and Water Slovakia
Fern
BaliFokus Foundation
Armenian Women For Health And Healthy Environment (AWHHE)
Greenpeace Switzerland
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition Huntington (OVEC)
Rettet den Regenwald (Rainforest Rescue)
Salva la Selva
Jorge Varela Marque, Goldman Prize Winner 1999
Coalition against Land Grabbing – Philippines:
Central America Women’s Network
Common Frontiers Canada
Urgewald
GreenWood
Loire Vivante
Eco-Accord Centre



David Gordon, Executive Director, the Goldman Environmental Prize



global witness

Patrick Alley, Founding Director, Global Witness



Ole von Uexkull, Executive Director, Right Livelihood Award Foundation



Mary Lawlor, Executive Director, Front Line Defenders



Jenifer Altman Foundation: Shorey Myers, Program Director.

Astrid Puentes and Anna Cederstav, Co-executive directors AIDA (Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente)

Anna Cederstav, AIDA and Earthjustice



Peter Bosshard

Peter Bosshard Interim Executive Director International Rivers



Katy Neusteter Director of Communications, Global Greengrants Fund



Leila S. Salazar

Leila Salazar-López, Executive Director, Amazon Watch



Katie Redford

Katie Redford, Director, EarthRights International



Chad Dobson, Executive Director, Bank Information Center (BIC)



Anuradha Mittal

Anuradha Mittal, Executive Director, Oakland Institute, USA



Kate Horner, Director of Forest Campaigns, Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)



FIDH and OMCT as the Observatory for Protection for Human Rights Defenders

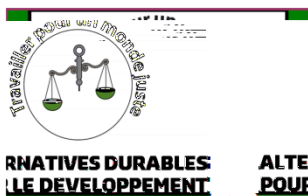
Ricardo Navarro, President of CESTA/Friends of the Earth El Salvador and 1995 Goldman Prize Recipient for South and Central America



Lindsey Allen, Executive Director, Rainforest Action Network



Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith, Senior Advisor, National Toxics Network Inc.



Stanislas BINELI Secrétaire Général Alternatives Durables pour le Développement

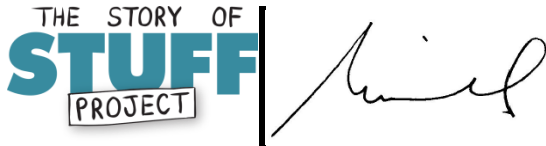


Pamela K. Miller

Pamela Miller, Executive Director, Alaska Community Action on Toxics



Lynn Henning, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project, 2010 Goldman Prize Recipient for North America



Michael O'Heaney, Director, The Story of Stuff Project



Von Hernandez, Global Development Director, Greenpeace International



Annie Leonard, Executive Director, Greenpeace USA



David Ritter, Chief Executive Officer, Greenpeace Australia Pacific



Russel Norman, Executive Director, Greenpeace Aotearoa New Zealand



Nikos Charalambides, Executive Director, Greenpeace Greece



Peace Brigades International

Alexander Egit, Executive Director, Greenpeace in Central & Eastern Europe



Handwritten signature of Markus Allemann in black ink.

Markus Allemann
Co Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Verena Mühlberger in black ink.

Verena Mühlberger
Co Executive Director

Markus Allemann and Verena Mühlberger, Co Executive Directors, Greenpeace Switzerland



**Friends of
the Earth
International**

Erick Burke, International Membership Development Coordinator, Friends of the Earth International



**Friends of
the Earth**

Jeff Conant, Senior International Forests Campaigner, Friends of the Earth US



FIGHTING GLOBAL POVERTY

John Hilary, Executive Director, War on Want

International Service for Human Rights



Dr Meriel Watts, Co-ordinator, Pesticide Action Network, Aotearoa New Zealand

EcoWaste Coalition

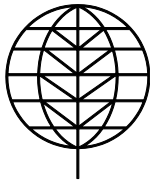


Ms. Aileen Lucero, Coordinator, EcoWaste Coalition, Philippines



**Business & Human Rights
Resource Centre**

Phil Bloomer Executive Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre



EARTHWORKS



Jennifer Krill, Executive Director, EarthWorks

Fernando Bejarano G, Red de Acción en Plaguicidas y Alternativas en México (RAPAM)

estamos
Organização comunitária



Juntos na luta
contra a pobreza

Feliciano dos Santos, CEO, ESTAMOS



Desmond D'Sa, 2014 Goldman Prize Recipient for Africa, South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA), South Africa

Ramesh Agrawal, Director, Jan Chetana and 2010 Goldman Prize Recipient for Asia



Michal Kravčík, People and Water Slovakia



Saskia Ozinga, Campaigns Coordinator, Fern, UK

BALIFOKUS

Yuyun Ismawati, Co-founder and Senior Advisor of BaliFokus Foundation and 2009 Goldman Prize Recipient for Islands and Island Nations



Dr Elena Manvelyan, President, Armenian Women For Health And Healthy Environment (AWHHE)



www.ohvec.org

Janet Keating, Executive Director, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC), USA



Reinhard Behrend, Executive Director, Rettet den Regenwald, Germany



Guadalupe Rodríguez, Salva la Selva, Spain

Jorge Varela Marquez, 1999 Goldman Prize Recipient for South and Central America and Special Invitee of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples



Motalib Kemil, President, Coalition Against Land Grabbing (CALG), Philippines



Margarita Rebolledo Hernandez, Coordinator, Central America Women's Network (CAWN)



Common Frontiers Canada



Heffa Schuecking, Director, Urgewald and 1994 Goldman Prize Recipient for Europe

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Scott Landis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Scott Landis, President and Founder, GreenWood



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. Jean".

Christine Jean, Coordinator, Loire Vivante and 1992 Goldman Prize Recipient for Europe



Eco-Accord Centre, Russia

ⁱ COPINH press releases (20 February 2016), Urgent Alert. Available from:
<http://www.copinh.org/article/alerta-urgente-20-febrero/> and <http://www.copinh.org/article/copinh-denuncia-urgente-25-de-febrero-del-2016/>