



Communiqué from the Mexican Network of Mining Affected Peoples (REMA)

Honduras lacks the capacity to guarantee the life of members of COPINH, Berta Cáceres's family and Gustavo Castro

Another member of COPINH is assassinated

Gustavo Castro runs greater risk

The Mexican Network of Mining Affected Peoples (REMA its initials in Spanish) condemns the assassination of Nelson García who was shot four times in the face yesterday in the context of a violent eviction carried out by military police in the community of Río Chiquito in the department of Cortés. This was reported on the website of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), of which Berta Cáceres was a member and who was murdered on March 3rd.

The assassination of Nelson García is a red alert in the context of the already serious situation of Gustavo Castro Soto, currently protected in the Mexican Embassy in Honduras. It has been five days since the Mexican government via communiqué #093 on March 10th requested that "Gustavo Castro be permitted to return to Mexico as soon as possible, from where he will continue participating in the investigative process as the Honduran legal framework and the treaty in effect between both countries to facilitate mutual legal coordination in criminal cases allows." The Honduran government has remained silent in response to this communiqué, aggravating the risk that Gustavo Castro faces. It is important to note that Honduran law and the binational treaty between Honduras and Mexico means that Gustavo can continue to cooperate in the investigation and can give further declarations from Mexico.

Given all of these violent threats and attacks against COPINH, it is clear that the Honduran government cannot guarantee that it will follow through on the precautionary measures issued by the Inter American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), especially Resolution 8/2016 in which precautionary measure #112-16 states with regard to the members of COPINH and the family of Berta Cáceres that "the members of COPINH, Berta Cáceres' family and Gustavo Castro are in a grave and urgent situation, putting their lives and personal integrity under threat and at risk."

The assassination yesterday confirms the Honduran government's incapacity to follow through.

The precautionary measures also indicate that the state of Honduras should "adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the life and personal integrity of the members of COPINH, Berta Cáceres's family and Gustavo Castro. Taking into consideration the information presented indicating that Gustavo Castro has decided to leave the country to ensure his security, the IACHR considers it necessary that the state take all necessary measures to ensure his security during the process of preparation and departure from the country." The Honduran government has failed to permit the departure of this human rights defenders, putting his life, his personal integrity, as well as the very investigation at risk.

As a result:

- We demand that the Honduran government allow the immediate departure of Gustavo Castro Soto to Mexico, given that remaining in Honduras increases his level of risk.
- That the IACHR precautionary measures be fully implemented to ensure the protection of COPINH, Berta Cáceres' family and Gustavo Castro
- That the assassination of Berta Cáceres and all of the members of COPINH who have been killed and assassinated be investigated in a transparent manner with the support of an international mission in order to ensure truth, justice and reparation for the Honduran society
- We demand that the Mexican government publicly speak out in response to the Honduran government's silence regarding the implementation of the binational treaty to permit the departure of Gustavo Castro from Honduras
- We call upon the other powers within the state to use their good offices to ensure the necessary return of Gustavo Castro Soto.

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