

HONDURAS

Indigenous movement risks lives to save their land

For the Indigenous Lenca people in Honduras, the land is their life. But the government is promoting dams, mines and other projects to exploit the land against the wishes of the Lenca.

MILPAH, the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz, is at the forefront of the struggle to protect their environment. MILPAH's members brave smear campaigns, death threats and physical assault. Are their attackers brought to justice? Rarely.

Their experience is typical for activists in Honduras because that country is one of the most dangerous places on earth to be a human rights defender. Women human rights defenders are at particular risk because their activism challenges stereotypes about the role of women in society.

Some are lucky enough to survive. Others, like Berta Cáceres, are not. She campaigned against a hydroelectric dam through a partner organization named COPINH. To stop her activism, she was murdered in 2016.

In October 2015, armed men stormed the home of MILPAH's Ana Miriam Romero. They were looking for her husband. They beat her up despite the fact that she was pregnant. Months later, her house was set on fire. In July 2016, two men threatened to kill her colleague Martín Gómez. Still, MILPAH vows to keep speaking out in order to protect the land on which they depend.

"We have no weapons, we have no money," says Martín. "But we do have a voice... and that has enabled us to make real progress."

MILPAH activists defend their land rights; we defend their rights. Tell Honduras to protect members of MILPAH.

To take action, go to the next page.



Artwork © Rebecca Hendin

Everyone has the right
to...security of person.

Article 3,
Universal Declaration
of Human Rights

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Unleash your pens and keyboards!

Please write to the President of Honduras.

- ◆ Start with Dear President.
- ◆ Describe who you are and why you're concerned about the violent attacks on members of MILPAH.
- ◆ Ask him to give MILPAH members and other human rights defenders the protection they demand.

Mail your letter or tweet a message to

Sr. Presidente Juan Orlando Hernández
Casa Presidencial
Bulevar Juan Pablo II
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Postage: \$2.50
Twitter: @JuanOrlandoH

Please send a copy to

Her Excellency Sofía Lastenia Cerrato Rodríguez
Ambassador for Honduras
151 Slater Street, Suite 805A
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H3

Postage: \$.85
Fax: (613) 232-0193
E-mail: ambassador@embassyhonduras.hn



Martín Gómez is one of the members of MILPAH. His safety, and that of his colleagues, is in constant danger.
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Support members of MILPAH! Send letters, cards or drawings to encourage them. Avoid religious or seasonal references. You may mention Amnesty International and you may include your return address.

MILPAH
c/o CEHPRODEC
Colonia 15 de Septiembre
Calle Clemente Marroquin Rojas
Avenida Independencia, Casa 1902, CP 2571
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

You could also record a solidarity message for MILPAH to be broadcast on community radio in mp3 format. Send the file to individuals@amnesty.org.

*Human rights defenders like MILPAH members are at risk around the world.
Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights.
www.amnesty.ca/wedefend #WeDefend*

Sample Tweets

.@JuanOrlandoH Please protect MILPAH
#DefendersUnderAttack from further violence in
#Honduras.

Call on @JuanOrlandoH to fully protect
#DefendersUnderAttack in #Honduras.
#IStandWithMILPAH #W4R17 #Write4Rights

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