

Honduras: Protect Defenders of the Land/Environment and Prosecute Berta Cáceres' Killers!

April 7, 2017

Juan Orlando Hernández
Presidente de la República
Casa Presidencial Bulevar Juan Pablo II
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear President Hernández:

I am very concerned about the smear campaign against defenders of the land and the environment, including members of the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz (MILPAH), the Honduran Center for the Promotion of Community Development (CEHPRODEC), and the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH). Unfounded accusations and slander directed against activists put them at risk of physical violence. This is particularly disturbing in the context of the unresolved murder of COPINH leader **Berta Cáceres**.

I call upon your government to provide protection for members of MILPAH, COPINH, and CEHPRODEC in accordance with their wishes. You must publicly reject the smear campaign directed against environmental and indigenous activists and recognize their legitimate and important role in promoting human rights.

I also urge you to fully investigate the murder of Berta Cáceres and to prosecute all of those found responsible, including both the intellectual and material authors of this crime.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

City/Town, State, Zip Code:

Country:

Honduras: Protect Defenders of the Land/Environment and Prosecute Berta Cáceres' Killers!

April 7, 2017

Norma Allegra Cerrato
Subsecretaria de Derechos Humanos y Justicia
Res. La Hacienda, Calle La Estancia
Bloque A-Lote 8 Edificio Z y M
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Undersecretary Cerrato:

I am very concerned about the smear campaign against defenders of the land and the environment, including members of the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz (MILPAH), the Honduran Center for the Promotion of Community Development (CEHPRODEC), and the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH). Unfounded accusations and slander directed against activists put them at risk of physical violence. This is particularly disturbing in the context of the unresolved murder of COPINH leader **Berta Cáceres**.

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Honduras: Protect Defenders of the Land/Environment and Prosecute Berta Cáceres' Killers!

April 7, 2017

Óscar Fernando Chinchilla
Fiscal General de la República
Ministerio Público
Lomas del Guijarro
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Dear Attorney General Chinchilla:

I am very concerned about the smear campaign against defenders of the land and the environment, including members of the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz (MILPAH), the Honduran Center for the Promotion of Community Development (CEHPRODEC), and the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH). Unfounded accusations and slander directed against activists put them at risk of physical violence. This is particularly disturbing in the context of the unresolved murder of COPINH leader **Berta Cáceres**.

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Sincerely,

Name:
Address:
City/Town, State, Zip Code:
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U.S. Senators: Co-Sponsor S.608 to Reject the Travel Ban and Support the Rights of Rabyaah Althaibani, Basheer Othman, and Others

April 7, 2017

The Honorable [SENATOR'S FULL NAME]
[SENATE OFFICE BUILDING AND ROOM]
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

I am extremely concerned about the revised executive order signed by President Trump on March 6, 2017. The order bans travel from six Muslim-majority countries and suspends the refugee admissions program, impacting refugees throughout the world and separating families in the United States.

If implemented, this order could prevent **Rabyaah Althaibani**, a U.S. citizen living in New York, from reuniting with her husband, **Basheer Othman**, a journalist from Yemen. The ongoing armed conflict in his country created a serious human rights crisis. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights documented 4,125 civilian deaths and more than 7,000 wounded since the conflict began in March 2015.

The situation became increasingly dangerous for journalists, prompting Basheer to flee his home country out of fear for his life. He travelled to India, where they married, before he relocated to Malaysia. Rabyaah, who has not seen her husband since they married, began the process of obtaining a visa for him to come to the United States. The executive order, however, puts their future into question, and the lack of a functioning government in Yemen creates the risk that this temporary ban will become permanent.

The United States faces serious threats of terrorism and violence, but security measures should be based on facts and not prejudice. An agenda based on scapegoating distracts the government from real solutions, drains resources, and makes us all less safe. Rabyaah Althaibani and Basheer Othman deserve to be reunited, not cast into the limbo of fear and uncertainty. Please ensure that the United States does not separate families or turn its back on refugees. I urge you to support and cosponsor S.608, a bill introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein to rescind this executive order.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

City/Town, State, Zip Code:

U.S. Senators: Co-Sponsor S.608 to Reject the Travel Ban and Support the Rights of Rabyaah Althaibani, Basheer Othman, and Others

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[SENATE OFFICE BUILDING AND ROOM]
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

City/Town, State, Zip Code:

U.S. Senators of the 115th Congress

Connecticut

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Christopher Murphy
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Maine

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Angus S. King, Jr.

Massachusetts

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

New Hampshire

The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

New Jersey

The Honorable Cory A. Booker
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

New Jersey (continued)

The Honorable Robert Menendez
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

New York

The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Pennsylvania

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey
248 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rhode Island

The Honorable Jack Reed
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Vermont

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

United Nations Security Council: Stand Up for Human Rights in Sudan

April 7, 2017

H.E. Nikki Haley
Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Your Excellency:

I am writing to you in order to express my grave concern regarding the terrible **human rights situation in Sudan** and to urge you, as the chief diplomatic representative of the United States to the United Nations and as the incoming President of the Security Council, to press the United Nations Security Council members to take action to end the abuses and bring those responsible to account.

In particular, I hope that, under your leadership, the Security Council will:

- Call upon the government of Sudan to release all persons including human rights defenders being held under arbitrary detention by the government in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and to ensure independent, prompt and effective investigations into the detention practices by Sudanese security services.¹
- Urge the Government of Sudan to ensure unrestricted access for humanitarian organizations and UNAMID to all areas of Darfur and for the Government and the SPLA-N to agree on a framework for humanitarian access to opposition controlled areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile, and ensure that UN and African Union refugee and IDP protection standards are respected.
- Acknowledging that the Government of Sudan in January extended the unilateral ceasefire in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile for six more months, I urge you to call upon the government to end targeted attacks against civilians and work with other members of the UNSC to institute a comprehensive arms embargo that would cover Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile.²
- Fully investigate the use of chemical weapons and other war crimes committed in the Jebel Marra region of Darfur in 2016 and, if there is sufficient admissible evidence, support the prosecution of all individuals suspected of responsibility and work to ensure an end to the use of all chemical weapons and other inherently indiscriminate weapons.³

I thank you for your attention to this matter, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

City/Town, State, Zip Code:

¹ UN General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/53/144](#) adopting the Declaration on human rights defenders and African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights Resolution #69 on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders In Africa.

² SCORCHED EARTH, POISONED AIR, SUDANESE GOVERNMENT FORCES RAVAGE JEBEL MARRA, DARFUR, Amnesty International 2016, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/09/chemical-weapons-attacks-darfur/>.

³ *Ibid.*

Sri Lanka: Justice for the Trinco Five. End the Impunity for the Killers!

April 7, 2017

President Maithripala Sirisena
Presidential Secretariat
Colombo 1, Sri Lanka

Dear President Sirisena:

I am very concerned about the killing of **Ragihar Manoharan and four other Sri Lankan Tamil students** on January 2, 2006 in Trincomalee. According to a witness, members of the Sri Lankan security forces shot the five innocent students dead when they had gathered near the seafront that evening for a chat.

An initial police investigation into the killings did not disclose who killed the students or lead to any prosecutions. The Sri Lankan government established an ad hoc commission of inquiry in September 2006 to examine this case and certain others. The commission's final report was given to President Rajapaksa in 2009 but was not made public until October 2015. A police sub-inspector and 12 Special Task Force personnel were arrested in February 2006 in connection with the case but later released without any charges being brought. In July 2013, the same STF personnel were re-arrested and then released on bail on October 14, 2013. To date, after 10 years, no one has been held responsible for these murders.

The families of Ragihar Manoharan and the four other students deserve justice. Please ensure that those responsible for their deaths are finally held accountable in proceedings meeting international standards for fair trials.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

City/Town, State, Zip Code:

Country:

China: Immediately and Unconditionally Release Druklo (a.k.a. Shokjang) and All Prisoners of Conscience!

April 7, 2017

Ambassador Cui Tiankai
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
3505 International Place, NW
Washington DC 20008

Your Excellency:

I am writing to call for the immediate and unconditional release of **Druklo (a.k.a. Shokjang)**. He is a prominent Tibetan writer and blogger who is being unjustly held.

Druklo was sentenced to three years imprisonment in February 2016 on charges of separatism, after being detained in March 2015. It is believed that this is as a result of an article he wrote describing the increased presence of Chinese security officers ahead of the March 10th anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan uprising. Previously, Druklo was detained by Chinese authorities in 2010 for writing about the widescale Tibetan protests of 2008, the Dalai Lama, and other Tibetan issues.

Please do all you can to ensure:

- The immediate and unconditional release of Druklo
- Regular access for Druklo to his family, lawyer of his choosing, and any medical treatment he may require, pending his release
- That Druklo is protected from torture and ill-treatment

I thank you for your attention to these concerns and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Name:
Address:
City/Town, State, Zip Code:

China: Immediately and Unconditionally Release Ilham Tohti and All Prisoners of Conscience!

April 7, 2017

Ambassador Cui Tiankai
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
3505 International Place, NW
Washington DC 20008

Your Excellency:

I am writing in regard to **Ilham Tohti**, an economics professor at Minzu University of China in Beijing, who was sentenced to life imprisonment on September 23, 2014 for "separatism." Amnesty International believes him to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for the peaceful expression of his beliefs.

Ilham Tohti, who is being held in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region Prison Number 1 in Urumqi, maintains that he opposes violence and separatism and that he only highlighted concerns about social and political issues as a Uighur academic.

His lawyers report that he has lost at least 16 kilograms due to a hunger strike because he was not provided with food compatible with his Islamic dietary requirements and because he has been denied food by prison staff. He has been shackled repeatedly and suffers from various pains in his abdominal area and appears to have a cataract. He has not been allowed a medical examination and was not receiving any treatment according to his lawyers. He has also reportedly been harassed and punched by other inmates.

Amnesty International is calling for Ilham Tohti's immediate and unconditional release as he appears to have been imprisoned solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression guaranteed in the Chinese Constitution. While he remains in prison, I urge you to ensure that Ilham Tohti is not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment in prison. Additionally he should be allowed access to a medical examination and treatment and visits with his family. I also call on you to facilitate Ilham Tohti's move to a prison in Beijing so that he can be closer to his immediate family members there. Furthermore, I urge you to launch a full and impartial investigation into allegations that he has been tortured and to bring those responsible to justice.

I thank you for your attention to these concerns, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

City/Town, State, Zip Code: