

**Diputado al Parlamento Europeo**

Mr Alessandro Palmero  
Head of the Delegation  
Delegation of the European Union to Honduras

Brussels, 14 March 2018

Dear Mr Palmero,

We are writing to you with regards to the case of Honduran indigenous leader and environmental activist Berta Cáceres. Ms. Cáceres, supposedly under state protection, was killed in March 2016 at her home in La Esperanza, western Honduras, after receiving more than 30 death threats linked to her campaign to stop the Agua Zarca hydroelectric dam being built on indigenous Lenca territory.

A report from several jurists from Colombia, USA, Guatemala and the Netherlands, was released by the end of 2017, containing the assertion that the active opposition of Ms Cáceres against the hydroelectric plan was indeed the reason for her killing.

Notwithstanding that nine men have been arrested in connection with the murder, including one serving and two retired military officers and the head of security of the dam company Desarrollos Energéticos SA (DESA), several sources of information have revealed the existence of possible loopholes in the investigation. Moreover, at least five other environmental campaigners have been killed in the country since Cáceres's death, bringing the death toll to 120 since 2010, according to the NGO Global Witness.

We have acknowledged that the dates for the court proceedings to uncover the intellectual authors behind the assassination of Cáceres and the attempted murder of her colleague the Mexican environmentalist Gustavo Castro will be soon known.

With this letter we, the undersigned members of the European Parliament, would like to raise our concerns over the undertaken investigation and over the whole situation on human rights and attacks to human rights defenders in Honduras. We call on the EU Delegation in Tegucigalpa to observe and report on the court case of Ms Berta Cáceres, and use all the instruments available at EU and EU Delegation levels to address human rights violations, in particular through its political dialogue with the State of Honduras.

Yours sincerely,

Javier Nart, ALDE  
Paloma López Bermejo, GUE  
Beatriz Becerra, ALDE  
Julie Ward, S&D  
Maite Pagazaurtundúa, ALDE  
Ernest Urtasun, Greens/EFA  
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