



UNIÓN EUROPEA  
DELEGATION TO HONDURAS

Tegucigalpa, 22 March 2018  
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**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS EUROPEAN PARLAMENT  
JAVIER NART, PALOMA LÓPEZ BERMEJO, BEATRIZ BECERRA, JULIE WARD,  
MAITE PAGAZAURTUNDÚA, ERNEST URTASUN, KEITH TAYLOR, EVA JOLY,  
JAVIER COUSO, LOUIS MICHEL, CAROLINA PUNSET, IVO VAJGL  
LOLA SÁNCHEZ CALDENTEY, HILDE VAUTMANS, ANA GOMES, SORAYA POST,**

*Dear Mrs,*

Allow me to sincerely thank you for your note, which touches on an extremely important issue, and assure you that I fully share your concerns.

The EU Delegation in Honduras is a vocal advocate for justice in the case of Berta Cáceres, demanding the prosecution of all intellectual and material authors since her assassination on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2016. We have repeatedly underlined the importance of thorough, transparent and expedite investigations at all levels of political dialogue as well as via public statements on various occasions, and will continue to do so. The Delegation also maintains contact with members of Ms. Cáceres family and the EU received an award from the family for its "tireless commitment in favor of justice".

I believe that the recent arrest of Mr. Robert David Castillo Mejía should be framed in the concerted action of the international community in requesting that justice is made. A representative of the Delegation attended the first hearings in the case of Mr. Mejía, as well as all the judicial processes implicating other indicted individuals, and will continue to do so in the future.

Generally speaking, the Delegation also maintains regular dialogue with human rights defenders and civil society on human rights, and an open door policy for human rights defenders.

It is also important to underline that our program of development cooperation includes an extensive range of actions to improve the human rights situation in the country, working together with both the national authorities and civil society. For example, a €29m program to build capacity of justice operators, increase accountability and ensure rapid and transparent attention to victims of violence is under implementation. Various activities under this program are focused specifically on increasing access to justice for women and indigenous people. Right now, we are finalizing the identification of a new €8m program aiming at consolidating and improving the country's national protection mechanism and creating links between national authorities, civil society and the private sector to prevent conflicts.

Via the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the EU supports human rights defenders and their organizations, in particular women and indigenous people and provide emergency support for human rights defenders when they face an immediate risk to their life.

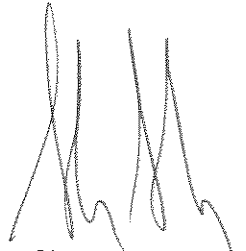
Defenders of land rights are particularly exposed in Honduras, and the Delegation has supported the drafting of a law on free, prior and informed consent of indigenous people, in line with ILO

Convention 169, following wide ranging consultations with national indigenous organizations. The adoption of this bill is crucial for the future ratification of the recently negotiated AVA-FLEGT agreement with Honduras.

The EU also provides substantial funding to the Organization of American States' Mission to Combat Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH). The MACCIH is amongst other cases, conducting investigations into the wider networks of corruption around DESA.

Finally, ensuring the respect for human rights in Honduras via political dialogue and support to human rights defenders, civil society, and national authorities is an essential part of EU action in Honduras and the Delegation is committed to continue to work together with all stakeholders to achieve this goal.

Yours sincerely,



[Signed in Ares]  
Alessandro Palmero

cc: EEAS. E. Hrda, H. Sobral, F. Ponz, S. Schultz  
DEVCO. J. Butkeviciene, J. De la Caballeria