

July 15, 2006

[spanish version abajo]

HONDURAS: first of two campesino political prisoner released - !!! ñ after more than three years of illegal detention, including torture and continued attacks against the home community of the prisoners.

THANK-YOU ñ to all who gave funds for this work, wrote urgent action letters, visited the prisoners and their home community of Montana Verde on Rights Action delegations. This is the hard-fought-for release from illegal and torturous detention ñ the underlying impunity and violations and abuses of the powerful sectors, many of who are partner with Canadian and US government and business interests promoting ifreeí trade, mining, tourism, etc. - has not ended.

If you want on/ off this elist: info@rightsaction.org

===

PRESS RELEASE

By COPINH (Civic council of grassroots and indigenous organizations of Honduras)

HONDURAS: A VICTORY FOR THE INDIGENOUS AND GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT - MARCELINO MIRANDA HAS BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON

We are extremely happy to share the following news with our brothers and sisters in different organizations and movements throughout the world:

1. Today, Wednesday, July 12, 2006, at 13.50, our brother, Marcelino Miranda Espinoza received official notification from the Supreme Court of the Department of Lempira that he has been unconditionally released.
2. At 2.30, our brother Marcelino Miranda left the Gracias jail with shouts of joy and applause from his fellow prisoners, congratulating their Lenca brother who has won the hearts of those who share his desire to work to build a more just and humane society, based on solidarity and spiritual support.
3. We thank God for Marcelino Miranda's release, which was largely made possible through the solidarity of different grassroots and indigenous organizations, communities, churches, human rights organizations, the media, NGO's and individuals all over the world - to all of them we express our profound gratitude.
4. Marcelino wishes to thank all those who supported him in the different campaigns for his release, as well as all those who sent

their wishes through letters, drawings and postcards, all of which helped alleviate his suffering. He also thanks those who spoke out on his behalf and worked tirelessly to make this victory for justice possible.

5. Our brother Leonardo Miranda, another Montaña Verde political prisoner affiliated with the COPINH, remains in jail. We continue to struggle for his release from prison, and we hope to achieve this goal in the coming days.

For this reason, we ask you continue providing your solidarity in this struggle.

6. The COPINH, along with Marcelino Miranda, reiterates its determination to keep up the struggle to build a new, more just and humane society.

With the force of our ancestors of Lempira Mota and Etempica, we raise our voices for justice, freedom and peace.

Intibucá, Intibucá, Honduras, Central America, July 12, 2006.

[translated for Rights Action by Rosalind M. Gill]

===

CONSEJO CIVICO DE ORGANIZACIONES POPULARES E INDÍGENAS DE HONDURAS.
COPINH

VICTORIA INDÍGENA Y POPULAR.
°°MARCELINO MIRANDA LIBRE°°
COMUNICADO DE PRENSA

Con profunda alegría queremos compartir con nuestros hermanos y hermanas de diferentes organizaciones y movimientos de lucha en cualquier parte del mundo, lo siguiente:

1.†Este Día miércoles 12 de Julio del 2006, a las 13 y 50 minutos nuestro hermano Marcelino Miranda Espinoza recibió su CARTA DE LIBERTAD DEFINITIVA, por parte de la secretaria del Juzgado primero de letras del departamento de Lempira.

2.†A las 14 horas con 30 minutos nuestro hermano Marcelino Miranda fue despedido del penal de Gracias en medio de la gritería y aplausos de los reclusos quienes victoreaban a este hermano lenca que se ganó el corazón de los internos con quienes compartió su deseo de trabajar en la construcción de una sociedad mas justa y mas humana demostrando, la solidaridad y apoyo espiritual en todo momento.

3.†La libertad de Marcelino Miranda a sido posible gracias a Dios y a la solidaridad de diferentes organizaciones populares e indígenas, de comunidades, de iglesias, de organismos de defensa de los derechos humanos, medios de comunicación, organizaciones no gubernamentales† y†

de ciudadanos y ciudadanas del mundo a título personal, por lo que les expresamos nuestro profundo agradecimiento.

4.†El compañero Marcelino agradece todas las muestras de acompañamiento y las diferentes campañas por la libertad, de igual manera las expresiones de cariño con cartas, dibujos y postales con las que se alivió el sufrimiento, así mismo las oraciones y todos los esfuerzos que han hecho posible esta victoria de la justicia.

5.†Aun sigue guardando prisión el compañero Leonardo Miranda otro preso político De Montaña Verde afiliado a COPINH, por lo que seguiremos luchando por su liberación esperando lograrla en los próximos días, razón por la que les solicitamos continúen con su solidaridad.

6.†El COPINH Junto a Marcelino Miranda reitera su decisión de luchar incansablemente por la construcción de una sociedad mas justa y mas humana.

†

Con la fuerza ancestral de Lempira Mota y Etempica se levantan nuestras voces llenas de justicia libertad y paz .

†

Intibuc., Intibuc. Honduras Centro América 12 de Julio del 2006

===