

Rights Action
May 25, 2013
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URGENT ACTION: Berta Carceres & Thomas Gomez of COPINH detained in Honduras

Berta Caceres, head of COPINH (Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras), and Thomas Gomez Membreño, a radio producer in COPINH's [Radio Guarajambala](#) were detained yesterday (May 24) at 5pm by the Honduran military and police, as announced on the news program by journalist Felix Molina on Radio Globo.

Gomez was released this morning but Caceres remains in detention, according to Harriet Mullaney of the Denver Justice & Peace Committee in Denver who called the jail where the prisoners are being held. Mullaney learned that "Bertha is being held in the office of the jail and that various people have come to the jail to check on her including her lawyer. She he was able to contact family and that the plan is tomorrow morning she will go to court the charge being that they had a weapon in the car.

Both Caceres and Gomez were detained in a joint military and police operation in Agua Caliente on the road to Rio Blanco in the Province of Santa Barbara, north of Honduras. They were traveling in a private vehicle to cover the [53 days of resistance](#) of the people living near Gualcarque River, which is being threatened by a massive hydroelectric project located in Agua Zarca in Lenca ancestral territory.

Protesters are demanding that the transnational corporation [DESA-SINOHYDRO-FICOHSA](#) halt the project and leave the Lenca territories.

[For **BACKGROUND INFORMATION** on the community defense struggle, read an Urgent Action and Article by Annie Bird:

<http://rightsaction.org/action-content/illegal-arrest-priest-and-22-members-honduran-national-resistance-front>]

Letters of solidarity are being requested by redefensorashn@gmail.com and panuelosenrebeldia@gmail.com.

En español, please call the jail directly in the Department of Santa Barbara. From North America, dial: 011-504-9845-1514.

(Summarized and translated by <http://escribana.org>)

WHAT TO DO?

AMERICAN / CANADIAN CONNECTION

Please send copies of this information, and your own letters, to your Canadian and American politicians (MPs, Congress members and Senators) and to your own media. Since the June 2009 military coup, that ousted the democratically elected government Honduras, the country has become the 'Murder Capital of the world'. State repression has again reached the levels of the

worst years of the 1980s. Since the coup, the U.S. and Canadian governments have 'legitimized the illegitimate' post-coup regime. North American companies and investors have increased their business activities in Honduras since the coup. In no small part, this repressive regime remains in power due to its political, economic and military relations with the U.S. and Canada.

This bad situation is getting even worse as the November 2013 presidential elections approach. A new party – LIBRE – has been formed and has a good chance of winning the elections, with the support of the Honduran people who are so tired and fed-up with their country being dominated by the military backed traditional parties that are controlled by the wealthy oligarchic sectors. Repression is increasing even more this year, as the elites fear the electoral victory of LIBRE.

MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS (in Canada and the U.S.)

Since 1998, Rights Action – with your support – has been a constant funder of, and partner with COPINH. To support COPINH and the struggle of the Honduran people against the military-backed repressive regime, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- UNITED STATES: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- CANADA: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

CREDIT-CARD DONATIONS can be made (in Canada and U.S.): <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

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