

## **Trial Against Randy Jorgensen, Canadian “Porn King”, To Proceed In Honduras On May 2, 2016**

(<http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ea011209a243050dfb66dff59&id=62ccf615bf>)

While the Honduran legal system is characterized by corruption, racism and impunity, if we can shine enough light on this trial in Canada and the US (where many tourism corporations and investors are based), we can help the Garifuna people have a better chance of not being forcibly dispossessed of their ancestral lands to make way for the encroaching ‘ethnocidal’ interests of global tourism companies and investors.

- **What to do:** see below

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Trial Against Canadian “Porn King” for Illegal Seizure of Garifuna Indigenous Lands**

By OFRANEH, Sambo Creek, April 25, 2016

Today, in the court of the City of Trujillo, judges suspended (for unstated reasons) the criminal trial for usurpation of lands against the Canadian citizen, Randy Roy Jorgensen, known as the “porn-king”. It will continue on Monday, May 2nd. In a hearing in this same court on November 13, 2015, this case had been partially dismissed.

### **Crony Tourism Capitalism**



(Randy Jorgensen with the Mayor of Trujillo and 'de facto' ruler "Pepe" Lobo. At the time, Lobo was the "president" of Honduras placed in power by the military and congress after the 2009 US and Canadian backed military coup.)

On March 16, 2016, the Appeals Court of La Ceiba ruled in favor of an appeal made by Attorney General prosecutors and Garifuna complainants (linked to OFRANEH), over-ruling the November 13, 2015 dismissal of the case. In a similar manner, the Appeal Court also rejected the provisional dismissal of the demand against Randy Jorgensen for the crime of usurpation of Los Cristales and Río Negro Garífuna community lands.

The "porn-king's" actions in the Trujillo Bay region of Honduras' north, Caribbean coast, have been more than just acts of usurpation of communal Garifuna lands. This Canadian, taking advantage of the June 2009 military coup and acting in complicity with the Trujillo Mayor's office, threatened to forcibly expropriate lands from the inhabitants of the Rio Negro Garífuna community, in order "to buy" their communal lands at an insignificant price and proceed to construct the cruise ship port called "The Banana Coast".

Previously, this Canadian man had made illegal land purchases in the community of Guadalupe, which the community leadership denounced at the Attorney General's Indigenous Peoples Office in 2008, without achieving results. Similarly, the communities of Santa Fe and San Antonio filed such complaints, to no avail.

The "porn-king" has partnered with people who were close to the post-military coup administration of Porfirio Lobo, and has enjoyed the unconditional support of the authorities of the Trujillo Bay, to commit a series of abuses in regard to the ownership of the communal lands.

### **From Land Usurpation to Attempted Murder**

Among other abuses committed against the Garífuna people for defending their ancestral lands, was the November 27, 2015, attack that almost killed the President of the Committee in Defense of the Community Lands, Mr. Vidal Leiva, who was shot three times by hired assassins. To date, there has been no proper investigation into this attempt on his life.

The Garífuna communities of Trujillo Bay expressed their inconformity with the dismissal of the case last November, and presented an accusation against the members of the judicial system for the breach of public duty. The Judge of the City of Trujillo has been known for his erratic application of justice, in a country where there is already a manifest politicization of the judiciary.

Randy Jorgensen's trial is scheduled to continue on May 2, and there is hope that the courts will rule in favor the restitution of the ancestral territorial rights of the Garífuna community of Cristales and Río Negro.

Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña, OFRANEH

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Background**

- “Canadian Tourism and Real Estate Developer Appears Before Honduran Judge”, By Karen Spring, November 14, 2015, <http://www.karenspring.com/2015/11/canadian-tourism-and-real-estate.html>

### **Delegation to Honduras, June 4-12, 2016**

- “Connecting the Dots from the Global to the Local: Understanding the Environmental, Human Rights, Poverty and Impunity Crisis in Honduras”. Rights Action and the Mir Centre for Peace at Selkirk College invite you to join this educational seminar trip to Honduras. Contact: Cara-Lee Malange, Mir Peace Centre, [CMalange@selkirk.ca](mailto:CMalange@selkirk.ca) & Grahame Russell, Rights Action, [grahame@rightsaction.org](mailto:grahame@rightsaction.org)

### **More information**

- OFRANEH (Organizacion Fraternal Negra Hondureña), [garifuna@ofraneh.org](mailto:garifuna@ofraneh.org), [www.ofraneh.org](http://www.ofraneh.org), <http://www.ofraneh.wordpress.com>
- Karen Spring, Honduras Solidarity Network, [Spring.kj@gmail.com](mailto:Spring.kj@gmail.com)
- Grahame Russell, Rights Action, [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

### **Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & United States)**

To support community organizations – like OFRANEH - working for real democracy and justice, for locally-controlled development, the environment and human rights in Honduras and Guatemala, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8
- USA: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091

Credit-Card Donations: <http://www.rightsaction.org/tax-deductible-donations>

Stock donations: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

More information: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)  
Receive print newsletter: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)  
Join Listserv: [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org)  
[www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org](https://www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org)  
@RightsAction  
\*\*\*\*\*