

## U.S. Congressional letter supports O.A.S. call for NEW ELECTIONS in Honduras

- <http://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/us-congressional-letter-supports-oas-call-for-new-elections-in-honduras>

We need your help - today!



(Dozens of Hondurans have been killed by regime military and police forces, including the minor Nicol, killed December 19, as part of a nationwide crackdown by the U.S. and Canadian-backed regime against people from all walks of life protesting the electoral fraud.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) has just circulated a sign-on "Dear Colleague" letter in the U.S. House of Representatives to President Trump, urging him to join the Organization of American States (O.A.S.) in calling for new elections, and to immediately suspend all security assistance to Honduras. The letter highlights the violent repression of protests since the election, and urges the President "to make clear to the Honduran government that these abuses must cease immediately."

The letter states, "we continue to have concerns over the candidacy of Juan Orlando Hernandez, as the current president's campaign for reelection violates the Honduran constitution's explicit ban on re-election. This blatant violation of Honduran law continues to be an issue of concern, in addition to the lack of integrity in the elections. We believe that the Honduran people have a right to peaceful protests, and are alarmed at the actions of Honduran security forces. "

Please urge your Representative immediately to sign on this letter. Only members of the House can sign the letter. The deadline for signatures is today, Wednesday, December 20th.

Call the Capitol Switchboard at [\(202\) 224-3121](tel:2022243121). Give them the name of your Rep. Ask to be connected. Urge your Rep's staffer to contact Zach Freed ([Zach.Freed@mail.house.gov](mailto:Zach.Freed@mail.house.gov)). (NOTE: please do not contact Ellison's staff yourself, but ask the staffer to do so.)

If you learn that your Congressman has agreed to sign, please notify me, Elise Roberts, at [elise@witnessforpeace.org](mailto:elise@witnessforpeace.org) so we can confirm the signature with Rep. Ellison. I'll circulate updates of signatures as they are available.

**SCRIPT:**

When you call your Rep. ask to speak with the aide who handles foreign policy. Use the script below in speaking with the aide. If the foreign policy aide is not available, ask to leave a message on his or her voice mail. Be sure to get the name of the foreign policy staffer so you can follow up.

"My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a constituent from (your town/city) in (your state). I am calling to ask Representative \_\_\_\_\_ to sign the Ellison sign on letter calling for new elections in Honduras and renewing the call to suspend all security aid to Honduras. The deadline for sign ons is today. Has Representative \_\_\_\_\_ seen this letter? Can I count on him/her to sign on? Please call me this week at (\_your phone number\_) to let me know if you have seen the letter, and if Representative \_\_\_\_\_ will sign it."

\*\*In your phone conversation, please highlight why this letter is important to you, especially if you have travelled to Honduras or heard a Honduran leader speak in your community.

**FOLLOW-UP:**

It's useful to follow up with an email to the aide, and you can use the action alert above. You can ask whoever answers the phone for the email for the foreign policy staffer and/or use this formula if you know how to spell their name correctly (the person who first answer the phone can spell it for you): [Firstname.Lastname@mail.house.gov](mailto:Firstname.Lastname@mail.house.gov), e.g. [Jane.Doe@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jane.Doe@mail.house.gov) In an email, you can just ask them to sign the letter, and then if you like send some information.

**BACKGROUND ARTICLES:**

1. [U.S. at a Crossroad as It Confronts Turmoil in Honduras](#) in the New York Times
2. [In Honduras, Calls Rise for new Presidential Elections](#) in the New Yorker
3. [America's Blind Eye to Honduras's Tyrant](#) in the New York Times
4. [The US Should Back New Elections in Honduras](#) in Bloomberg

**DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER**

Dear Colleagues,

On November 26th, Honduras held its national elections and on Sunday, Honduras's Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) announced the results - Juan Orlando Hernandez, the sitting President, was declared the winner. This result was announced following severe irregularities and inconsistencies, along with widespread allegations of fraud. These irregularities and inconsistencies were so prevelant that the Organization of American States has called for a new election, stating that a new election is the only way route to hearing the will of the Honduran people.

In addition, at least 23 protestors and bystanders have been killed since the protests began on November 28th, with Honduran security forces firing live ammunition into crowds of protestors.

I urge you to join me in echoing the OAS's call for new elections, demanding that the violence against protestors cease immediately. And urging that US security aid to Honduras be suspended while such flagrant abuses of human rights persist.

To sign on to this letter, please contact Zach Freed in my office at [zach.freed@mail.house.gov](mailto:zach.freed@mail.house.gov) before Close of Business today, December 20.

Sincerely,  
Congressman Keith Ellison

**\*\*LETTER TEXT\*\***

Dear President Trump,

Honduras is in the midst of an electoral crisis, which has become a political crisis. Hondurans went to the polls on November 26th, and the government's handling of electoral materials since has been marked with severe irregularities and deficiencies, as well as widespread allegations of fraud. These inconsistencies have already led the Secretary General of the Organization of American States to call for new elections, stating that the electoral process lacked integrity and that the only route to hearing the will of the Honduran people is new elections. We are alarmed over reports of repression of basic media freedoms, as well, and urge you to call on the Honduran government to cease harassment of journalists, opposition media, and international reporters, and to guarantee and protect freedom of speech in all forms.

We urge your Administration to join the Organization of American States in calling for new elections, and to stand behind the right of the Honduran people to free and fair elections, in accordance with Honduran law. We strongly believe independent international observers should oversee these new elections in order to ensure the integrity of the vote.

In addition, we continue to have concerns over the candidacy of Juan Orlando Hernandez, as the current president's campaign for reelection violates the Honduran constitution's explicit ban on re-election. This blatant violation of Honduran law continues to be an issue of concern, in addition to the lack of integrity in the elections.

We believe that the Honduran people have a right to peaceful protest, and are alarmed at the actions of Honduran security forces. Since November 28th, when the vote count took a dramatic and improbable turn in favor of President Hernandez, Honduran security forces have continued to fire live ammunition at civilians protesting electoral fraud. Honduran human rights groups have

documented at least 23 protesters and bystanders killed to date, with at least 12 deaths at the hands of state security forces. In addition, reports indicate that over 1,500 people have been illegally detained. Reports of beatings, torture, and arbitrary detentions are widespread. We urge you to make clear to the Honduran government that these abuses must cease immediately. We also call on you to suspend all security assistance to Honduras as long as such abuses by Honduran state security forces persist and those responsible are not held accountable.

We look forward to working with you to promote peace and democracy in Honduras.

Sincerely,

CURRENT SUPPORTERS OF HR1299, Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act

- 1) Johnson, Hank [GA-4]
- 2) Conyers, John, Jr. [MI-13]
- 3) Kaptur, Marcy [OH-9]
- 4) Serrano, Jose E. [NY-15]
- 5) Schakowsky, Janice [IL-9]
- 6) Ellison, Keith [MN-5]
- 7) Lee, Barbara [CA-13]
- 8) Davis, Susan A. [CA-53]
- 9) Speier, Jackie [CA-14]
- 10) Moore, Gwen [WI-4]
- 11) McCollum, Betty [MN-4]
- 12) Lipinski, Daniel [IL-3]
- 13) Dingell, Debbie [MI-12]
- 14) Pocan, Mark [WI-2]
- 15) Holmes Norton, Eleanor [DC]
- 16) Napolitano, Grace F. [CA-32]
- 17) Bonamici, Suzanne [OR-1]
- 18) DeLauro, Rosa L. [CT-3]
- 19) Gutierrez, Luis V. [IL-4]
- 20) Cicilline, David N. [RI-1]
- 21) Pingree, Chellie [ME-1]
- 22) Blumenauer, Earl [OR-3]

- 23) Rush, Bobby L. [IL-1]
- 24) Tonko, Paul [NY-20]
- 25) Grijalva, Raul M. [AZ-3]
- 26) Slaughter, Louise [NY-25]
- 27) Waters, Maxine [CA-43]
- 28) Velázquez, Nydia [NY-7]
- 29) Kind, Ron [WI-3]
- 30) Lynch, Stephen [MA-8]
- 31) Lacy Clay, William [MO-1]
- 32) Polis, Jared [CO-2]
- 33) McGovern, Jim [MA-2]
- 34) Davis, Danny K. [IL-7]
- 35) Lewis, John [GA-5]
- 36) Eshoo, Anna G. [CA-18]
- 37) Chu, Judy [CA-27]
- 38) DeFazio, Peter A. [OR-4]
- 39) Yarmuth, John A. [KY-3]
- 40) Nolan, Richard [MN-8]
- 41) Clark, Katherine [MA-5]
- 42) Pallone, Frank, Jr. [NJ-6]
- 43) Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [VA-8]
- 44) O'Rourke, Beto [TX-16]
- 45) Cartwright, Matt [PA-17]
- 46) Panetta, Jimmy [CA-20]
- 47) DeSaulnier, Mark [CA- 11]
- 48) Lowenthal, Alan [CA-47]
- 49) Maloney, Carolyn B. [NY-12]
- 50) Quigley, Mike [IL-5]
- 51) Keating, William R. [MA-9]
- 52) Lieu, Ted [CA-33]
- 53) Foster, Bill [IL-11]
- 54) Cleaver, Emanuel [MO-5]
- 55) DelBene, Suzan K. [WA-1]
- 56) Neal, Richard E. [MA-1]
- 57) Lofgren, Zoe [CA-19]
- 58) Raskin, Jamie [MD-8]
- 59) Ryan, Tim [OH-13]

- 60) Himes, James [CT-4]
- 61) Capuano, Michael E. [MA-7]
- 62) Jayapal, Pramila [WA-7]
- 63) Rice, Kathleen M. [NY-4]
- 64) Welch, Peter [VT-at large]
- 65) Khanna, Ro [CA-17]
- 66) Doyle, Michael F. [PA-14]
- 67) Crowley, Joseph [NY-14]
- 68) Kennedy, Joseph [MA-4]
- 69) Barragan, Nanette [CA-44]
- 70) Tsongas, Niki [MA-3]

### **MORE INFORMATION**

Elise Roberts, Director

Witness for Peace - Midwest/Acción Permanente por la Paz - Midwest

[wfpumw@witnessforpeace.org](mailto:wfpumw@witnessforpeace.org)

[witnessforpeace.org/midwest](http://witnessforpeace.org/midwest)

[920.421.2269](tel:920.421.2269)

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### **Emergency relief funds - Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)**

- **Matching donor:** Two anonymous donors will match donations, up to a total of \$35,000, made by December 31, 2017.

Rights Action is sending relief funds to our long-term partner groups in Honduras - COPINH and OFRANEH- and other community groups for their community development, environmental and human rights defense work, and their emergency work in response to electoral fraud and repression. Make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

- U.S.: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887
- Canada: (Box 552) 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8

Credit-Card Donations: <http://rightsaction.org/donate/>

Donations of stock? Write to: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

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