

Tortured Corpse of Young Environmentalist, Forcibly Disappeared in Santa Barbara, Found with Hands Amputated

February 20, 2018, by Criterio.hn

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/brutalized-corpse-of-luis-fernando-ayala-found>

- Today is day #42 of political prisoner Edwin Espinal's arbitrary detention
- Warning: graphic photo below of how Luis' corpse was found, left for community and family members to see

Below:

- Criterio.hn article about yet another political assassination (this time a death squad torture-assassination) in Honduras
- List of U.S. and Canadian government officials. Please KEEP ON writing your politicians and government officials about Edwin Espinal and the other political prisoners, about the political torture, killings and assassinations being carried out by the Honduran regime



Maria Ayala and Irene Ayala, aunt and grandfather of the mutilated and slain Luis (who raised him), meet with Berta Oliva of COFADEH to seek legal and human rights support for this recent political crime in Honduras. Photo @ Grahame Russell

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<https://criterio.hn/2018/02/20/manos-amputadas-torturado-encuentran-cadaver-joven-ambientalista-desaparecido-santa-barbara-2/>

Tegucigalpa.- The body of the young environmentalist, Luis Fernando Ayala (16 years old), was found early Tuesday morning in the Concepcion del Sur hamlet in the Gualala Municipality in the Department of Santa Barbara.



(How Luis' tortured, mutilated body was found, for other community members to see.)

Ayala was a member of the Santa Barbara Environmental Movement (Movimiento Ambientalista Santabarbarenses – MAS). According to the reports of local human rights defenders, he had been tortured and both of his hands had been amputated.

This young environmentalist was strongly opposed to the mining and hydroelectric projects that have been invading the area.

Ayala and his family have been active members of the Santa Barbara Environmentalist Movement –MAS- in the Gualala Municipality, which has struggled against gypsum mining concessions for over three years. This concession was granted indefinitely, and threatens to disappear the Arenales community in this municipality.

Of the protests that have taken place in Santa Barbara since the elections, those led by MAS have been severely criminalized and persecuted by members of the military and the police, including cases of assassination.

What are the U.S. and Canadian governments doing – while maintaining full political, economic and military relations with the Honduran regime – to pressure Honduras to free Edwin and all political prisoners, to drop all the trumped up charges, and to stop the political killings and assassinations?

United States

Contact directly your elected Senators, Congress members:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

- Heide Fulton: US Chief of Mission, Honduras, BronkeHM@state.gov
- Jason Smith, Human Rights and Labor, SmithJA6@state.gov

Canada

Directly contact your Member of Parliament:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>

- Ambassador James Hill, Embassy of Canada in Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua, James.Hill@international.gc.ca, tgipa@international.gc.ca
- Minister Chrystia Freeland, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Global Affairs Canada, chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca, chrystia.freeland.c1d@parl.gc.ca, chrystia.freeland@international.gc.ca,
- Canadian embassy for Honduras: Bertrand-Xavier Asselin, Bertrand-Xavier.Asselin@international.gc.ca; Isabelle Solon Helal,

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To support the work and struggle of our long-term partner groups in Honduras, responding to the human rights and repression crisis, including the political prisoners, make check payable to "Rights Action" and mail to:

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