

Update by Karen Spring

## **URGENT ACTION! Honduran Political Prisoner Edwin Espinal is Refusing Food, Demanding to See a Doctor**

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/urgent-action-honduran-political-prisoner-edwin-espinal-refusing-food-demanding-to-see-a-doctor>

On March 3, 2018, the 2nd anniversary of the assassination of Berta Caceres, political prisoner Edwin Espinal – a long-time friend and collaborator with Berta and her organization COPINH – began refusing food, protesting the atrocious health and nutrition conditions in the military-run jail where he is illegally detained.

Here, an update by Karen Spring, Edwin's long-time partner and director of the Honduras Solidarity Network.

Please KEEP ON writing and pressuring your politicians and government officials. The U.S. and Canadian governments are deeply complicit with Honduras' devastating situation of repression, crime, corruption and impunity.

### **March 4, 2018, Day #44 of unjust incarceration of Edwin Espinal in a military-run jail**

[https://web.facebook.com/freeEDWINEESPINALlibertad/?notif\\_id=1517031477037912&notif\\_t=page\\_invite&ref=notif&rdc=1&rdr](https://web.facebook.com/freeEDWINEESPINALlibertad/?notif_id=1517031477037912&notif_t=page_invite&ref=notif&rdc=1&rdr)

Since Wednesday, February 28, political prisoner Edwin Robelo Espinal has been sick with a flu-like virus. Since January 19, Edwin is being held in the military-run, maximum security "La Tolva" prison in southeastern Honduras and being falsely charged with a list of crimes related to the post-electoral crisis and repression.

There is some sort of flu-like virus circulating inside the jail module where approximately 200 prisoners are being held. Edwin and at least 20 other prisoners have been complaining of the following symptoms: severe headache, sore throat, nasal discharge, chest congestion, facial pain (concentrated in the sinus area), respiratory problems especially at night, and diarrhea.

Given that there has been no response from the recently appointed La Tolva prison director Osman Rodas about the medical concerns of the prisoners, Edwin decided to start refusing all food until he is taken to see a physician. The circulating virus is likely linked to the poor conditions inside the prison including severe water shortages and less than adequate amounts of food given to prisoners (see the [previous update for an overview of the conditions](#)). Their sicknesses may also be related to or worsened by the fact that they are only allowed to defecate during a one hour timeframe in the morning.

On top of all of this, we are also concerned that Edwin might suffer further persecution and repression by prison authorities for taking this dignified stance on these issues inside the prison.

## More information

Karen Spring, Edwin Espinal's long-time partner & Coordinator of HSN (Honduras Solidarity Network)

[spring.kj@gmail.com](mailto:spring.kj@gmail.com); + (504) 9584-8572

<https://freedwinespinallibertad.blogspot.com/>

Facebook: [Free EDWIN ESPINAL Libertad](#)

Twitter: #FreeEdwinEspinal #LibertadEdwinEspinal

## KEEP ON writing

### 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](mailto:BronkeHM@state.gov)
- Jason Smith, Human Rights and Labor, [SmithJA6@state.gov](mailto:SmithJA6@state.gov)

### Canada

Ambassador James Hill, Embassy of Canada in Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua, [James.Hill@international.gc.ca](mailto:James.Hill@international.gc.ca), [tglpa@international.gc.ca](mailto:tglpa@international.gc.ca)

Minister Chrystia Freeland, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Global Affairs Canada, [chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca), [chrystia.freeland.c1d@parl.gc.ca](mailto:chrystia.freeland.c1d@parl.gc.ca), [chrystia.freeland@international.gc.ca](mailto:chrystia.freeland@international.gc.ca),

- Canadian embassy for Honduras: Bertrand-Xavier Asselin, [Bertrand-Xavier.Asselin@international.gc.ca](mailto:Bertrand-Xavier.Asselin@international.gc.ca); Isabelle Solon Helal, [Isabelle.SolonHelal@international.gc.ca](mailto:Isabelle.SolonHelal@international.gc.ca); Kyle Sundstrom, [Kyle.Sundstrom@international.gc.ca](mailto:Kyle.Sundstrom@international.gc.ca)

Directly contact your Member of Parliament and ask them as well to write Chrystia Freeland and James Hill: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>

\*\*\*\*\*

### Tax-Deductible Donations (Canada & U.S.)

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:

- 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)

\*\*\*\*\*

### More information / Get involved

- Rights Action: [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org); [www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org](http://www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org); <https://twitter.com/RightsAction>
- Honduras Solidarity Network: <http://www.hondurassolidarity.org>; <https://www.facebook.com/HondurasSolidarityNetwork>; <https://twitter.com/hondurassol>

- Witness for Peace: [www.witnessforpeace.org](http://www.witnessforpeace.org);  
<https://twitter.com/WitnessforPeace>
- School of Americas Watch: [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org); <https://twitter.com/SOAWatch>
- La Voz de los de Abajo: <https://www.facebook.com/lavozchicago>;  
[@lavozchicago](https://twitter.com/lavozchicago)
- Common Frontiers Canada: <https://www.commonfrontiers.ca>;  
[www.facebook.com/common.frontiers](https://www.facebook.com/common.frontiers);

\*\*\*\*\*

Please re-post and publish this information

More info: [info@rightsaction.org](mailto:info@rightsaction.org)

Subscribe to e-Newsletter: [www.rightsaction.org](http://www.rightsaction.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org](http://www.facebook.com/RightsAction.org)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RightsAction>, [@RightsAction](https://twitter.com/RightsAction)

\*\*\*\*\*