

Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act (H.R. 1945)

<https://mailchi.mp/rightsaction/bertha-caceres-human-rights-in-honduras-act>

“For too long, the Honduran people have suffered under one of the most repressive governments in the world.” (Rep. Johnson)

“For years, members of the Honduras police and military have engaged in corrupt practices and gross human rights abuses without consequence.” (Rep. José Serrano)

In the U.S.: Find out if your Representative supports the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act. If not, challenge and educate them.



Berta Isabel Cáceres Flores
March 4, 1971 - March 3, 2016

Berta Cáceres was a Honduran environmental activist, indigenous leader of her people, and co-founder and coordinator of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras.

Call your Representative
Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121

Call your Representative today and ask them to co-sponsor the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act, HR 5474

For a call script and more information, visit SOAW.org

(Please note: Re-introduced “Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act” is H.R. 1945)

Rep. Johnson reintroduces the “Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act”

March 28, 2019, Press Release

<https://hankjohnson.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-johnson-reintroduces-bertha-caceres-human-rights-honduras-act>

Congressman Johnson is joined by 43 colleagues to introduce a bill that would suspend military aid to Honduras until the Honduran government investigates credible allegations of gross human rights violations by their security forces.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Hank Johnson (GA-04), alongside Reps. Jan Schakowsky (IL-09), José Serrano (NY-15), and Marcia Kaptur (OH-09), with the support of 43 Members of Congress, today reintroduced H.R. 1945, the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act.”

This bill will work to ensure that the Honduran government, military, and police cannot commit crimes or act of violence against the Honduran people with impunity. Berta Cáceres’s legacy of activism inspired the world, but the Honduran government failed to protect her. This legislation serves as a stern check on the Honduran government, and a beacon of long-sought justice for the people of Honduras.

“Today I reintroduced H.R. 1945, the Berta Cáceres Human Rights Act. For too long, the Honduran people have suffered under one of the most repressive governments in the world. In Honduras, to be a human rights activist, a journalist, an indigenous person or an environmentalist is to be a target. To protest being a target, is a death sentence.” said Rep. Johnson who originally introduced the bill in 2016 in the wake of the tragic murder of Honduran environmental and indigenous rights leader Berta Cáceres. “This legislation will suspend U.S. military funding to Honduran security forces and discourage multilateral development bank lending until the Honduran government investigates and prosecutes those in the military and police who have violated human rights.”

The proposed bill has gained traction and support from other key members in the House. “It has been three years since the tragic murder of Honduran indigenous and environmental rights activist Berta Cáceres. This incident, and lack of action following it, have underscored the horrific conditions for human rights activists in the country,” said Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (IL-09), a Chief Deputy Whip and member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. “The United States must take swift action to push the Honduran government to ensure that no more labor organizers, journalists, land defenders and human rights activists are threatened, killed or imprisoned. This bill makes sure we would immediately suspend U.S. aid that arms and trains the Honduran military and police until human rights defenders are protected and security forces are prosecuted for flagrant human rights violations.”

“For years, members of the Honduras police and military have engaged in corrupt practices and gross human rights abuses without consequence. By limiting funding, we have the opportunity to force the Honduran government to investigate and prosecute these crimes,” said Rep. José Serrano (NY-15). “The Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act sends a clear and strong message: that impunity will not be tolerated and that the Honduran government must hold human rights abusers accountable.”

“I am honored to join Rep. Johnson in support of this important legislation,” said Rep. Marcia Kaptur (OH-9). “For too long the Honduran government has failed to reign in violence and intimidation against activists, ethnic minorities, the press, and anyone who hasn’t stepped in line with their political agenda. The United States cannot continue to send financial aid to Honduras for military and law enforcement operations until this serious record of human rights violations are addressed. Berta Cáceres tragic murder cannot be in vain. Her family and her countrymen deserve justice and rightful due process, where those who committed this brutality are held responsible. This body cannot continue to turn a blind-eye to this impunity. I call on all my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation and call for a vote on the House floor without delay.”

More information

COPINH (Organization co-founded by Berta, now headed by Berta's daughter)

www.copinh.org, <https://bertavivecopinhsigues.copinh.org/>, copinhonduras.blogspot.com,
<http://copinhenglish.blogspot.com/>, FB: Copinh Intibucá, Tw: @COPINHHONDURAS

Tax Deductible Donations in the U.S. & Canada

- Matching Donor: Supporters will match contributions (up to \$25,000), made by April 20, 2019
- "Trying Times Again, in Honduras and Guatemala" (Rights Action newsletter, March 2019):
<http://rightsaction.org/newsletter-march-2019-tryingtimesagain/>

To support community human rights, environment and territory struggles in Honduras and Guatemala, make checks [to "Rights Action"](#) and [mail to:](#)

- [U.S.:](#) [Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887](#)
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Follow work of other solidarity groups/ NGOs

- Honduras Solidarity Network: www.hondurassolidarity.org
- Witness for Peace: www.witnessforpeace.org
- School of Americas Watch: www.soaw.org
- Common Frontiers Canada: www.commonfrontiers.ca
- Breaking the Silence: www.breakingthesilenceblog.com
- NISGUA (Network in Solidarity with People of Guatemala): www.nisgua.org
- Mining Watch: www.miningwatch.ca
- CISPES (Committee in Solidarity with People of El Salvador), www.cispes.org
- Alliance for Global Justice: www.afgj.org
- GHRC (Guatemalan Human Rights Commission): www.ghrc-usa.org

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