



8th March 2016

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Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific calling Justice for Berta Cáceres and immediate release of Gustavo Castro.

Early morning, March 3, 2016, armed individuals forcibly entered and assassinated Honduran activist Berta Cáceres, founder of COPINH, in her home in La Esperanza, department of Intibucá in south western Honduras.

Our friend and colleague Gustavo Castro Soto was injured during the attack. Gustavo is Mexican and a member of the organization Otros Mundos Chiapas/Friends of the Earth-Mexico, the Mexican Network of Mining-Affected Peoples and the Mesoamerican Movement against the Extractive Mining Model (M4). Gustavo survived the attack and has become a key actor in the investigation into the murder of our friend Berta.

Berta and Gustavo are two people known for their role in international social and environmental struggles, evidence of their dedication to defending the rights of Indigenous and farming peoples, who have accompanied processes of organized and peaceful resistance to prevent territories being destroyed.

In the context of the terrible assassination of Berta Cáceres, we call on the government of Honduras to pay immediate attention. We also call for all legal and political measures possible to guarantee the immediate protection of our colleague Gustavo Castro.

We called for immediate, transparent and independent investigations into the murder of Bertha and for the perpetrators of the murder to be brought to justice.

Right now, it is fundamentally important to guarantee the life of our colleague Gustavo Castro given the risk he faces as a key witness to this horrible assassination.

We also call for the security of all of the members of the Coordinating Group of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH) be guaranteed.

Friends of the Earth Asia-Pacific representing the Friends of the Earth International member groups from Japan, Australia, South Korea, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Palestine, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Timor Leste.

Signed

1. *Hemantha Withanage, Centre for Environmental Justice/ Friends of the Earth Sri Lanka, Convenor, Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific*
2. *Meena Raman, Friends of the Earth Malaysia*
3. *Virgilio da Silva, Guterres, Haburas Foundation/ Friends of the Earth Timor Leste*
4. *Wendy Plannery, Friends of the Earth Brisbane, Australia*
5. *Prakash Bushan, Pro Public/ Friends of the Earth Nepal*
6. *Rizwana Hassan, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association/ Friends of the Earth Bangladesh*
7. *Nonette Royo, Executive Trustee, Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center-Kasama sa Kalikasan/Friends of the Earth Philippines*
8. *MISHIBA Junichi, Friends of the Earth Japan*
9. *Hye Lyn Kim, Korea Federation for Environmental Movements (KFEM)/ Friends of The Earth Korea*
10. *ABEER Al Butmeh, PENGON-FoE Palestine*