

via fax: 011 504 2239 3298 Sr. Presidente Juan Orlando Hernández President of Honduras	via fax: 011 504 2221 5667 Sr. Fiscal Oscar Chinchilla Banegas Attorney General of Honduras
--	---

January 21, 2016

Dear President Hernández and Attorney General Chinchilla:

We are outraged at the murder of **Javier Vásquez Benítez**, son of an indigenous leader whose community is organizing resistance to the Los Encinos Dam in La Paz Department.

On December 20, 2015, the body of Javier Vásquez Benítez was found in a ravine in the municipality of Santa Elena, Department of La Paz. His body showed signs of numerous blows that would have caused his death. Javier Vásquez is the son of Gilberto Vásquez, President of the Indigenous Council of Gualinga. The Council works for the defense of indigenous peoples' rights to their ancestral lands in La Paz.

We believe that Javier Vásquez's assassination is an attempt to intimidate his father and prevent him from continuing his opposition to the Los Encinos Dam, which he has actively opposed through participating in many marches and demonstrations, sometimes accompanied by his son. The Los Encinos Dam has been constructed and is operating in the region despite the fact that no consultations were held among the local indigenous communities, in violation of Convention No. 169 of the International Labor Organization. Los Encinos dam is part of an energy project funded by Gladis Aurora López Calderon, a National Party Deputy and Vice President of the Honduran Congress.

This assassination follows the killings of two other indigenous leaders in the Gualinga community and the targeting of many other human rights defenders. In May 2015, the dismembered body of Silvestre Manueles Gómez was found on the bank of the Chinacla River; the assassination occurred in the context of a conflict between the local indigenous peoples and the company Los Encinos S. de R.L. On January 26, 2015, Juan Francisco Martínez, an active member of Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz (MILPA), was killed. He worked on issues relating to the right to water, land and territory for the Gualinga community. Impunity remains for both killings (cf our letter of Jan 21 2015).

We **strongly urge** you to

- carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the killing of Javier Vásquez Benítez, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- take all necessary measures to guarantee the security of Gilberto Vásquez and his family members;
- guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai and Christine Stonebraker-Martínez
Co-Coordinators

copies: Jorge Alberto Milla Reyes, Honduran Amabassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751
 James Nealon, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax 011 504 2236 9037
 Olivia Franken, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via email
 Rapporteur for Honduras, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202 458.3992
 Rapporteur on the Rights of Afro-Descendants, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email and fax
 US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter:

Matt & Kathy Abramowski
6677 Villa Marie Rd
Lowellville, OH 44436

Rep. Nickie Antonio & Jean Kosmac
1305 Belle Ave
Lakewood, OH 44107

Shirley Badger
200 Hamlet Hills Dr, #222
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Sheri Banks
1064 Canyonview Rd
Sagamore Hills, OH 44067

Dr. Joan Bedinghaus & Dr. Seth Foldy
3061 N. Marietta Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Judy Botwin
3145 Scarborough Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Andrew Bramante
3113 Washington Blvd
Cleveland Hts, OH 44118

Grace & Dr. William Brinker
351 Mason St, #324
Onalaska, WI 54650

Dana Buehner
3390 W. 148th St
Cleveland, OH 44111

Church of the Gesu
2470 Miramar Blvd
University Hts, OH 44118

Church of the Resurrection
Human Rights Committee
32001 Cannon Rd
Solon, OH 44139

Richard Clark
2619 Courtland Oval
Shaker Heights, OH 44118

Anne Coan
17100 Van Aken Blvd #210
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

Community of Christ the Servant
4403 Michael Ave
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Judith & William Corrigan
3008 Clinton Ave
Cleveland, OH 44113

Patricia Denny
7465 Mountain Quail Place
Painesville, OH 44077

Jill M. DiPiero & Christopher Kerr
14201 Ashwood Rd
Shaker Hts, OH 44120

Virginia Douglas
133 Brandtson Ave
Elyria, OH 44035

Christine Driscoll
15800 Edgecliff Ave
Cleveland, OH 44111

Maryellen Eickman-Fiala &
Michael Fiala
2027 W. 38th St
Cleveland, OH 44113

Lynn Falletta
1245 Beechnut Dr
Akron, OH 44312

Laurie Findlay
940-B Sycamore Dr
Decatur, GA 30030

Jean Gillet
2450 Derbyshire Rd, #449
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

Nancy Grim
6358 Lakeview Dr
Ravenna, OH 44266

Ellen Huffman
407 Tibet Rd
Columbus, OH 43202

Sr. Mary Hurley
3207 Franklin Blvd., #211
Cleveland, OH 44113

Rev. Charles Hurst & Maria Smith
9907 Lake Ave, # 205
Cleveland, OH 44102

Trudy Hutchinson
2091 Lincoln Ave
Lakewood, OH 44107

Diane Karpinski
2897 Ludlow Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44120

John Knox Presbyterian Church
Mission Committee
25200 Lorain Rd
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Gene Kotrba
566 Lindberg
Berea, OH 44017

Sharon A. Leasure
27942 Marquette
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Frank Lesko
8287 State Route 305
Garrettsville, OH 44231

Dale Lindsey
3505 Archwood
Cleveland, OH 44109

Rick and Shelley Mack
264 Wallace Dr
Berea, OH 44017

Toty Martin
720 South Point Trail
Berea, OH 44017

Helen McBride
797 Brick Mill Run
Westlake, OH 44145

Nina McLellan and Walter Nicholes
14014 Shaker Blvd, #204
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

Suzanne McNally
22624 Lenox Dr
Cleveland, OH 44125-3604

Dr. Michael Melampy
Dept of Biology & Geology
Baldwin-Wallace University
275 Eastland Rd
Berea, OH 44017

Julie Merker
33630 Coachman Lane
Solon, OH 44139

Paula Miller
125 N Palomas Ave
Tucson, AZ 85745

Sue Miller
3142 Yorkshire Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Dr. James & Marge Misak
3018 Clinton Ave
Cleveland, OH 44113

Kathryn Moody-Arndt
1291 W. 104th St
Cleveland, OH 44102

Daniel Morris
1493 Dover Center Rd
Westlake, OH 44145

Rachel M. Napolitano
3837 W. 152nd St, #202
Cleveland, OH 44111

Joan O'Brien
14306 Detroit Ave, #937
Lakewood, OH 44107

Mary O'Malley
361 Cascade Ct
Avon Lake, OH 44012

Anne Osborne
2021 King James Parkway, #328
Westlake, OH 44145

Fr. Paul D. Panaretos, S.J.
421 E. 38th St
Erie, PA 16504

Linda Park
1848 Beersford, #1
East Cleveland, OH 44112

Bob Parker
11514 Chautauqua Trail
Brecksville, OH 44141

Nan Ellen Passant
16 Laurel Dr
Rocky River, OH 44116

Dr. Mark W. Pestak
2044 W 38th St
Cleveland, OH 44113

Nilda Quintana
470 3rd St. S. #407
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Janet Rhodes Ross
Beyond Borders
3420 Cavalier Trail Unit D
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44224

Marlene & Robert Rink
1150 Sylvania
Cleveland Hts, OH 44121

Valerie and Stewart Robinson
3334 Berkeley Rd
Cleveland Hts, OH 44118

Lois Romanoff
12802 Larchmere Blvd
Cleveland, OH 44120

Rosemary Snow
3786 Bushnell Rd
University Heights, OH 44118

Sarah Kay Sommers
114 Shawnee Trail
Aurora, OH 44202

David Stonebraker
2477 Spruce St
Girard, OH 44420

Joyce Strommen
13640 NE 37th Pl.
Bellevue, WA 98005

Monica Svetz
3901 W. 158th St
Cleveland, OH 44111

Rick Toth
1017 University Rd
Cleveland, OH 44113

Andrew Trares
2068 Fulton Rd
Cleveland, OH 44113

Curt & Priscilla Treska
1518 Kenilworth
Cleveland, OH 44113

Ursuline Sisters
Social Justice Office
2600 Lander Rd
Pepper Pike, OH 44124

Brooke S. Willis
2590 W.15th St
Cleveland, OH 44113

Mary Ashdown
22612 Lenox Dr
Fairview Park, OH 44126

Karen & Robert Ault
3133 Chadbourne Rd.
Shaker Heights, OH 44120

Mark Bailey
P.O. Box 704
Elyria, OH 44036

Gerald Bukosky
441 Uhl St
Millersburg, OH 44654

Congregation of St. Joseph
Social Justice Committee
3430 Rocky River Dr
Cleveland, OH 44111

Danielle Cosgrove
15621 Greenway Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44111

Dr. Marie C. Dietrich
1931 King James Parkway, #403
Westlake, OH 44145

Thom Downing
213 Laverne Ave
Alexandria, VA 22305

Chris Dusek & Allen Myers
1205 W 69th St
Cleveland, OH 44102

Roberta Fairchild
6786 Seneca Rd
Mayfield Village, OH 44143

Debbie Gurney & Ron Manzano
3952 Rosemond Rd
Cleveland Hts, OH 44121

Erica Foldy & Roger Luckmann
44 Grove Rd
Natick, MA 01760

Rick & Susan Heiser
810 W. Jefferson St
Bloomington, IL 61701

Molly Holland Avery
3965 Eastway Rd
South Euclid, OH 44118

Anita Hooley Yoder
3333 Ormond Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Patricia James
417 South St
Huron, OH 44839-1521

Susan Lendvay
198 Eastland Rd
Berea, OH 44017

Siobhan Malave
1083 Selwyn Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44112

Dot Masterson
4403 Michael Ave
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Kathleen McDonnell
2082 W.38th St
Cleveland, OH 44113

Donald McPherson
2161 Middlefield Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

Rev. Karen Glick Metzler
8103 Jackson River Rd
Hot Springs, VA 24445

Tedd Roos
1189 Andrews Ave.
Lakewood, OH 44107

Louise P. Sandercock
200 Laurel Lake Dr. Apt. W 222
Hudson, OH 44236

Elinor Schambach
2074 W. 100th St
Cleveland, OH 44102

Juanita A. Sherba
4494 Mellinger Rd
Canfield, OH 44406

Sisters of the Humility of Mary
PO Box 522
Villa Maria, PA 16155

Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Cleveland-West Community
12201 Brighton Ave
Cleveland, OH 44111

Jean Sommer
8212 Brookside Rd
Independence, OH 44131

James & Rosemary Sziitai
2505 Tennyson NW
Massillon, OH 44646

Jody Taslitz
1418 Edendale St
Cleveland, OH 44121

Ursuline College Campus Ministry
2550 Lander Rd
Pepper Pike, OH 44124

Bob and Carla Van Dale
144 Kendal Dr
Oberlin, OH 44074

Laura Van Dale
1189 Andrews Ave.
Lakewood, OH 44107

Margaret S. Vento
6901 Edgewater Dr
Coral Gables, FL 33133

Swanny & Dr. Ted Voneida
7487 Westlake Blvd
Kent, OH 44240

Lois Westerkamp
2030 Wooster Rd, #4
Rocky River, OH 44116

West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church
Social Action Committee
20401 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116

Phyllis Bambeck
1895 W. 71st St.
Cleveland, OH 44102

Pamela Beck
23970 Hermitage Rd
Shaker Heights, OH 44122

Anthony Bifulco
2692 Scarborough Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

Mark Brauer
12497 Cedar Rd #10A
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

Jean Braun
1524 Maplegrove Rd
South Euclid, OH 44121

Greg Coleridge
American Friends Service Committee
2101 Front St. #111
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

Aida Colon & Maria Velez
11181 Fairlawn Dr
Parma, OH 44130

Commission on Catholic
Community Action
7911 Detroit Rd
Cleveland, OH 44102

Communion of Saints Parish
2175 Coventry Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Rita Danks
8350 Bridlehurst Trail
Kirtland, OH 44094

Kathleen & Chuck Deger
125 Sage Ave
Akron, OH, 44301

Hector Dominguez
10251 Huntington Park
Strongsville, OH 44136

Fr. Daniel R. Fickes
5276 E.105 St.
Garfield Hts., OH 44125

Sr. Regina Fierman
1390 Windmill Ln
Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Dwight Fleming
5606 Utica Ave
Cleveland, OH 44103

Kathy Flora
17610 Rock Creek Rd
Thompson, OH 44086

Marge Geiger
3020 Corydon Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Kelli A. Halter
7509 Ginger Ln
Cincinnati, OH 45244

Ian Heisey & Christine Lee
1736 Randall Road
Cleveland, OH 44113

Rev. George Hrbek
& Stephanie Morrison-Hrbek
1800 W 31st Place
Cleveland, OH 44113

Nelli Johnson
2993 Ripley Rd
Cleveland, OH 44120

Richard L. Jones
7821 Lake Ave., Apt. 301
Cleveland, OH 44102-6400

Grace Kanary
4010 John Ave
Cleveland, OH 44113

Diane & Jim Lardie
19430 Scottsdale Blvd
Shaker Heights, OH 44122

Ed Mascha
11781 Pinewood Trail
Chesterland, OH 44026

Linda Maxwell
1458 Northland Ave
Lakewood, OH 44107

Kathryn Metz
12907 Clifton Blvd. #6
Lakewood, OH 44107

Jonathan F. Moody
7904 Shawnee Trail
Garrettsville, OH 44231

Margaret Reiners Mills
POB 513
Elmore, OH 43416

Jane Norris
1415 Wexford Ave
Cleveland, OH 44134

Dr. Edith Rasell
7405 Detroit Ave
Cleveland, OH 44102

Becky Reimbold
1127 E. Bronson
South Bend, IN 46615

Sr. Marietta Rohr
14530 Clifton Blvd, #209
Lakewood, OH 44107

Jim Schlecht
1703 W 32nd St
Cleveland, OH 44113

Michael Sering
1655 Lee Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Robert Shores
4216 Bridge Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44113

Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine
5232 Broadview Rd.
Richfield, OH 44286

Kathy Smith
3188 W. 14th St, #3
Cleveland, OH 44109

Michell Spoden
6002 Merkle Ave
Parma, OH 44129

Brent Stowe
1423 Riverside Dr, #22
Lakewood, OH 44107

Mary Tiece
4223 Bridge Ave
Cleveland, OH 44113

Mitsi Wagner
1497 W. 38th St
Cleveland, OH 44113

Alisa Warshay
4346 Silsby Rd
University Hts, OH 44118

Ditte Wolin
3393 Dellwood
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Ally, Chris and Rose Yaecker
15121 Sperry Rd
Novelty, OH 44072

Roldo Bartimole
2660 Princeton Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Esther Post
23415 Fairmount Blvd
Beachwood, OH 44122