

via email: presidencia@poderjudicial.gob.hn Lic. Rolando Argueta President of the Supreme Court of Honduras	via email: mprelacionespublicas@gmail.com , Sr. Óscar Fernando Chinchilla Banegas Attorney General of Honduras
via email: jacobsantos2004@yahoo.com Lic. Jacobo Santos Special Prosecutor for Human Rights	via email: karlacueva144@gmail.com Lica. Karla Cueva Secretary of State for Human Rights Affairs

November 11, 2018

Dear Sirs:

Today we are writing, with increasing anger and urgency, about **the violent eviction in the community of El Guapinol, Tocoa municipality, in Colón Department**. On October 23 we wrote to you about our concern at the eviction order for the environmental defense organization **Encampment for Life** and the issuing of arrest warrants for 18 of its members (cf our letter of Oct 23).

On October 27, 1500 members of the Army, Cobras (militarized anti-riot police units), the National Preventative Police and others, heavily armed with rifles, shields, clubs and tear gas bombs, evicted a defenseless and peaceful population from the Encampment for Life. People were beaten and wounded; three persons were temporarily detained, and three people were killed, including two members of the Armed Forces. Tear gas injured a pregnant woman. Media members covering the event were attacked, their cameras were taken, the information was erased, and their personal possessions and documents were temporarily retained.


On October 28 the people of El Guapinol, tried to peacefully take back the Encampment. A group of 20 heavily armed paramilitaries in civilian clothes attacked them in the presence of the Army and the National Police. Several people were injured; **Alex Bonilla** was seriously wounded. The armed group burned the home of community leader **Irma Serrano**.

On October 29, military operatives terrorized the community of La Ceibita for hours by searching homes, taking women and children from their homes, and detaining men without arrest warrants.

The Encampment for Life was organized three months ago in response to the negative environmental and social impacts of large scale mining projects in the Atlantic zone carried out by the Los Pinares mining company. The Encampment members are facing a serious crisis as its leaders and other human rights defenders are being followed and criminalized (cf our letter of Oct 23). In light of this crisis, **we strongly urge that you**

- order the immediate demilitarization of the area so that the 14 communities that are part of the Encampment for Life and the zone in general can live without fear of arrest or injury;
- review the laws passed in the context of the 2009 military coup d'état restricting the rights of people and assigning rights to private companies to carry out extractive projects based on a non-existent legality that dispossess communities and peoples of their territories.

Sincerely,


 Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Co-Coordinator


 Christine Stonebraker-Martinez

copies: Marlon R. Tábora Muñoz, Ambassador of Honduras to the US ~ via website or fax, and US mail
 Heide B. Fulton, Chargé d'Affaires, US Embassy in Honduras ~ via email
 Jason Smith, Human Rights and Labor Representative, US Embassy in Honduras ~ via email
 David Tagle, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via email
 Joel Hernández, Rapporteur for Honduras ~ via email
 María Soledad Pazo, Country Representative to Honduras, United Nations Office High Commissioner for Human Rights ~via email
 COFADEH ~via email
 US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Beatty, Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

Oct 30_COFADEH_Honduras

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