

via email: mprelacionespublicas@gmail.com,
Sr. Óscar Fernando Chinchilla Banegas
 Attorney General of Honduras

via email: karlacueva144@gmail.com
Lica. Karla Cueva
 Secretary of State for Human Rights Affairs

December 26, 2018

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are extremely concerned about the ongoing criminalization and judicial harassment of **Juana Carranza**, a member of the Reyes Rodríguez Arévalo Campesina Cooperative, which is affiliated with the Yoro regional branch of the National Field Workers Office (CNTC) in El Progreso, Yoro Department.

On November 15 she was on her way to Tegucigalpa to seek treatment for epilepsy when she was arrested for “usurpation.” Over the next 12 hours she endured severe stress as she was transferred between detention centers without being informed of her location. She was finally held at the Joint Command Center in San Pedro Sula, Cortés Department. She was again falsely charged of “usurpation of lands” as she had been in 2012. At that time she was sentenced to probation, required to sign in at the Potrillo Courthouse in person every month, and was forbidden to leave the country. Since then she has complied by presenting herself each month at the Potrillo Courthouse.

On November 16, she was released after a hearing at which she was accompanied by her lawyer, Merary Ávila, a member of the National Defender Network, and by other human rights defenders. She was ordered to continue to comply with the measures decreed in 2012.

We condemn these punitive measures which are significantly impacting her life and **strongly urge** that you

- suspend the punitive measures against Juana Carranza;
- immediately cease using the justice system to criminalize and repress human rights defenders.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Co-Coordinators



Christine Stonebraker-Martínez

copies: Lic. Jacobo Santos, Special Prosecutor for Human Rights, Honduras ~ via email
 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, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email
 US Senators Brown & Portman
 US Representatives Beatty, Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Ryan ~ via email

20 Nov 2018_IM-Defensores_Honduras

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