

| | |
|--|---|
| via email: pdh@pdh.org.gt Lic. Augusto Jordán Rodas Andrade Procurador de los Derechos Humanos de Guatemala | via email: fiscalgeneralmp@gmail.com carrecis@mp.gob.gt Licda. María Consuelo Porras Argueta Attorney General of Guatemala |
|--|---|

August 21, 2020

Dear Lic. Rodas y Licda. Porras:

We are concerned for the safety of environmental and indigenous rights defender **Ubaldo García Canan** and other members of the **Nuevo Día Ch'orti Indigenous Association (CCCND)** in Olopa municipality in Chiquimula Department. CCCND provides legal support and visibility to indigenous Maya Ch'orti' communities. They face repeated human rights violations and threats to their land, environmental, and cultural rights because of hydroelectric and mining projects in their territories (cf our letters of Dec 24 2018, July 3 2019).

On the night of August 5, Ubaldo García Canan, who serves as spokesperson for the Maya Ch'orti' Indigenous Council of Olopa, once again became a crime victim when unknown persons forcibly raided his home and his adjoined small grocery store. Because the intruders stole personal documents along with money and products, indigenous authorities suspect that Ubaldo García Canan was being targeted because of his involvement with CCCND. He has already filed several complaints before the Human Rights Prosecutor's office due to multiple threats and acts of intimidation directed at him since 2018. The government granted him limited security measures for a period of six months in 2019.

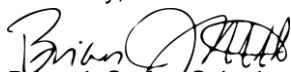
The year 2019 was pivotal in CCCND's peaceful organized resistance to the Cantera los Manantiales, an antimony sulfide mine in Olopa, operated by INCAMIN, S.A. Their legal concern is that they were not granted prior consultation and did not consent to the project. Their health and environmental concerns include the contamination of the Río Jupilingo and the Río Zacapa, cutting down of forests, and the appearance of skin diseases in residents. In March, the Ministry of the Environment ordered the company to stop its operations. In November, after the Maya Ch'orti' communities had maintained a peaceful encampment for several months, the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) suspended the mining license. Moreover, the Court of Amparos granted the Indigenous Council a provisional protection against the risks they were exposed to as a result of the mining operations.

The majority of residents in 11 villages of Olopa municipality (and villages of neighboring Esquipulas municipality) oppose the mining project. In retaliation, they have been victimized by intimidation and violence. On June 20, Maya Ch'orti' indigenous rights defender **Medardo Alonzo Lucero**, a member of the Indigenous Council of Olopa and a leader in the opposition to the mine, was found dead with signs of torture in La Cumbre, Olopa.

Because of our concern for the safety of the Maya Ch'orti' communities in Olopa, we urge your government to

- carry out a thorough and impartial investigation into the raid on Ubaldo García Canan's home and the previous threats against him, publish the results, and bring those responsible to justice
- continue your investigation into the murder of Medardo Alonzo Lucero, publish the results, and bring those responsible to justice
- consult with Ubaldo García Canan to devise and implement the necessary measures to guarantee his physical safety and psychological integrity

Sincerely,


 Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Co-coordinators


 Christine Stonebraker Martinez

copies: Sr. Enrique Antonio Degenhart Asturias, Minister of the Interior of Guatemala ~ via email
 Licda. Ida Elizabeth Keller Taylor, Director of Mining, Ministry of Energy and Mines ~ via email
 OACNUDH: Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos en Guatemala ~ via email
 UDEFEGUA: Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos en Guatemala ~ via email
 Alfonso José Quiñónez Lemus, Ambassador of Guatemala to the US ~ via email, US mail
 Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño, Rapporteur for Guatemala, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email
 Antonia Urrejola Noguera, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email
 Luis E. Arreaga Rodas, US Ambassador to Guatemala, in care of human rights officer Rain Bian ~ via email
 Bryan Kooztz and Steven Kenoyer, Guatemala Desk, US State Department ~ via email
 NISGUA ~ via email
 Guatemala Human Rights Commission-USA ~ via email
 US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Beatty, Fudge, Gibbs, Gonzalez, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Ryan ~ via email

11 Aug 2020_FrontlineDefenders_Guatemala

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

Marc Alvarado
3229 Poe Ave
Cleveland, OH 44109

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

Wilber Argueta
11124 Stamy Rd
Whittier, CA 90604

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
50 Sherman St
Denver, CO 80203

Andrew & Sharon Bramante
5 Roosevelt Rdg
Black Hawk, CO 80422

Grace Brinker
351 Mason St, #324
Onalaska, WI 54650

Jonathan Cahill
2140 W 38th St., APT 4
Cleveland OH 44113

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

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

Dr. Richard Clark
2145 W 18th St
Cleveland OH 44113

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

Judith Corrigan
3008 Clinton Ave
Cleveland, OH 44113

Heather Craigie
3299 Grenway Rd
Shaker Heights, OH 44122

Rachel & Peter DeGolia
1648 Compton Rd.
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Patricia Denny
7465 Mountain Quail Place
Painesville, OH 44077

Jill M. DiPiero & Christopher Kerr
3324 Clayton Blvd
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

Erica Ewing
661 N Buckeye
Wooster, OH 44691

Sam & Lynn Falletta
1245 Beechnut Dr
Akron, OH 44312

Rick Feinberg & Nancy Grim
6358 Lakeview Dr
Ravenna, OH 44266

Laurie Findlay
940-B Sycamore Dr
Decatur, GA 30030

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

J.P. Gaulty
2545 Kenilworth Rd, #7
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

Kathryn Harlow
4701 Clinton Ave
Cleveland, OH 44102

Nance Hikes & Dr. Michael Melampy
142 Westbridge Dr
Berea, OH 44017

Rev. Ellen Huffman
1348 W 64th St
Cleveland, OH 44102

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

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

Judge Diane Karpinski
2897 Ludlow Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44120

Jane Kentner
1331 W 70th St APT 311
Cleveland, OH 44102

Gene Kotrba
566 Lindberg
Berea, OH 44017

Sharon A. Leasure
27942 Marquette
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Dale Lindsey
3505 Archwood
Cleveland, OH 44109

Richard and Shelley Mack
264 Wallace Dr
Berea, OH 44017

Toty Martin
720 South Point Trail
Berea, OH 44017

Cara McKinney
17 Ibbeston St
Somerville, MA 02314

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

Doug & Jani Wanner McWilliams
3070 Woodbury Rd
Shaker Heights OH 44120

Julie Merker
33630 Coachman Lane
Solon, OH 44139

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 & Lavinia Morris
1493 Dover Center Rd
Westlake, OH 44145

Rachel M. Napolitano
1953 W 61st St
Cleveland, OH 44102

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

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

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

Bob and Laverne 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
871 Ibis Walk Place N, unit 3302
St. Petersburg, FL 33716

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

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

Sarah K. Sommers
5900 Lawn Ave
Cleveland OH 44102

Brian Stefan-Szittai
4302 Apple Ave
Cleveland OH 44113

Christine Stonebraker Martínez
2777 Spruce St
Girard OH 44420

David Stonebraker Martínez
2477 Spruce St
Girard, OH 44420

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

James F. Szaller
28470 Hilliard
Westlake, OH 44145

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

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

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

Mark Bailey
3092 Kendal Ln
Twinsburg, OH 44087

Gerald Bukosky
1216 Versailles Ave
Alameda, CA 95401

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

Danielle Cosgrove
15621 Greenway Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44111

Susan Dicken
241 S Main St #114
White River Junction, VT 05001

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

Rob & Roberta Fairchild
6786 Seneca Rd
Mayfield Village, OH 44143

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

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

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 & Ronald James
417 South St
Huron, OH 44839-1521

Susan Lendvay
7025 Fitch Rd
Olmsted Township, OH 44138

Ed & Adriana Mascha
11781 Pinewood Trail
Chesterland, OH 44026

Dot Masterson
4403 Michael Ave
North Olmsted, OH 44070

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

Donald & Sandra McPherson
2161 Middlefield Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

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

Rev. Jonathan F. & Jane Moody
7904 Shawnee Trail
Garrettsville, OH 44231

Jeanne & Alejandro Petrus-Rivera
6805 Strathmore Dr
Cleveland, OH 44125

Tedd Roos
1189 Andrews Ave.
Lakewood, OH 44107

Juanita A. Sherba
4494 Mellinger Rd
Canfield, OH 44406

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

Jean Sommer
8212 Brookside Rd
Independence, OH 44131

James & Rosemary Szittai
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
6855 Edgewater, APT 2C
Coral Gables, FL 33133

Swanny & Dr. Ted Voneida
401 Oakwood Dr
Kent, OH 44240

Michael Allen
2400 Overlook Rd., #3
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

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

Roldo Bartimole
13900 Shaker Blvd, APT 612
Cleveland, OH 44120

Pamela Beck
23970 Hermitage Rd
Shaker Heights, OH 44122

Anthony Bifulco
2692 Scarborough Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

Jean Brinich
12614 Arliss Dr.
Lakewood, OH 44107

Gary Claxton & Mitsi Wagner
1439 W. 38th St
Cleveland, OH 44113

Greg Coleridge
3016 Somerton
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

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

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

Rita & Richard Danks
1842 W Via de la Gloria
Green Valley, AZ 85622

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

Hector & Marisol Dominguez
10251 Huntington Park
Strongsville, OH 44136

Pat Fallon
3300 Kenmore Rd
Shaker Heights, OH 44122

Robyn Ferguson
1428 West 65th St.
Cleveland, OH 44102

Fr. Daniel R. Fickes
32929 Lake Rd
Avon Lake, OH 44102

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

Dwight Fleming
5606 Utica Ave
Cleveland, OH 44103

Kathy Flora
2449 Queenston Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Marge & Joe Geiger
3020 Corydon Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

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

Grace Kanary
4010 John Ave
Cleveland, OH 44113

Meagan Kresge
2037 W. 38th St.
Cleveland, OH 44113

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

Martha A. Maloney
3420 Wooster Rd, 205B
Rocky River, OH 44116

Linda Maxwell
1458 Northland Ave
Lakewood, OH 44107

Mary Meler
1494 Victoria Ave
Lakewood OH 44107

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

Jane Norris
1415 Wexford Ave
Cleveland, OH 44134

Dr. Edith Rasell
7405 Detroit Ave
Cleveland, OH 44102

Becky Reibold
1127 E. Bronson
South Bend, IN 46615

Pastor J. Edwin Sanders
4600 W. 150th St.
Cleveland, OH 44135

Jim Schlecht
1703 W 32nd St
Cleveland, OH 44113

Michael Sering
1655 Lee Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

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

Kathy & Steven 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 Triage
4223 Bridge Ave
Cleveland, OH 44113

Andrea Walsh-Frazier
4525 W 148th St
Cleveland, OH 44135

Alisa Warshay
4346 Silsby Rd
University Hts, OH 44118

Martha Wiersma
4276 W. 217th St.
Fairview Park, OH 44126

Nichole Wilson
56 N Maple St
Orwell, OH 44076

Sandra Wilson

Ditte Wolin & Ari Klein
3393 Dellwood
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Paula Miller
2082 Fulton Rd
Cleveland, OH 44113

Esther Post
23415 Fairmount Blvd
Beachwood, OH 44122