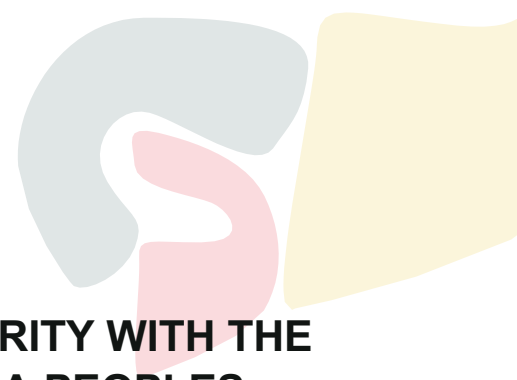


International Delegation in Solidarity with the Camp for the Life of the Garífuna Peoples

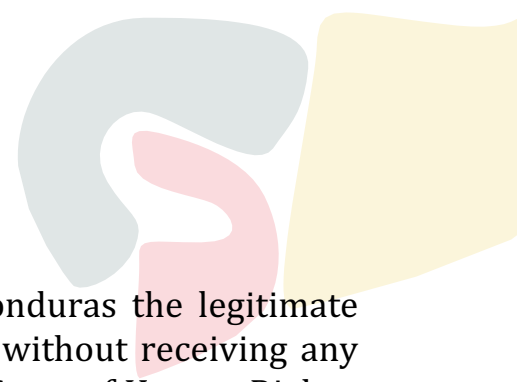


PRESS RELEASE INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE CAMP FOR THE LIFE OF THE GARÍFUNA PEOPLES

- ❖ We are more than 30 organizations and media outlets from Latin America, Europe, United States and international representatives who traveled to Honduras to participate in the **International Delegation in Solidarity with the Camp for the Life of the Garífuna Peoples**, in addition to another 13 international organizations that have been accompanying and supporting this solidarity action from afar.
- ❖ We arrived on 17 September to express our solidarity and admiration of the Garífuna Peoples organized in the **Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH)**, to observe and denounce the grave human rights violations to which they are subjected and to demand that the State of Honduras comply with its national and international human rights obligations.
- ❖ We saw that **the Camp is not only a legitimate expression of the right to peaceful protest but also an example of communal life and a space for convergence and dialogue between different social movements as well as those for the arts and the care for life.**
- ❖ During these days, we took our demands and concerns about the Garífuna Peoples' situation to the European Union Delegation in Honduras, the embassies of France, Germany and Spain, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras. There, we found interest and awareness of the human rights violations committed against the Garífuna Peoples.
- ❖ We regret that virtually no Honduran State institution received the delegation, despite the fact that the request was made in a timely and proper manner. The only exception was the meeting held with three Supreme Court justices—two women and one man—an institution that, at the last minute and following pressure from our delegation, granted us an audience.



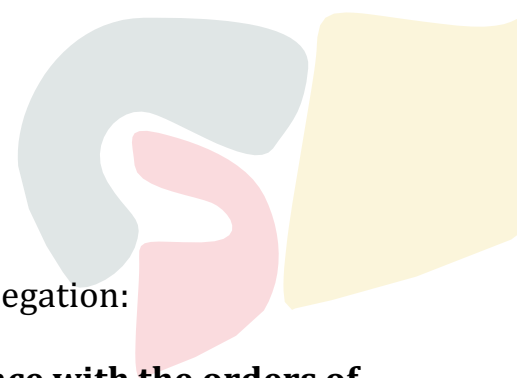
International Delegation in Solidarity with the Camp for the Life of the Garífuna Peoples



- ❖ Following decades demanding from the State of Honduras the legitimate right of the Garífuna Peoples to their territory, and without receiving any response, **OFRANEH** turned to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Since 2015, the Court has issued four rulings (Triunfo de la Cruz, Punta Piedra, San Juan, and Cayos Cochinos) recognizing that **the Honduran State violates the Garífuna Peoples' right to their territory, as well as their communities' and leaders' rights to life, security and justice.** However, the State of Honduras has not complied with any of these four rulings.
- ❖ The Court has also paid particular attention to the grave acts of violence committed against OFRANEH leaders for defending their territory and caring for natural common resources. However, in recent years, not only have events occurring prior to the rulings not been investigated, but there has been a growing number of human rights violations against rights defenders, including threats, criminalization and forced disappearances, among others.
- ❖ National authorities, acting in the interests of national and transnational corporations, have fostered a social, political and legal environment in which communities are left unprotected and the defense of their rights poses such a high risk that Honduras is classified as one of the most dangerous countries in the world for defending human rights.
- ❖ The law to strengthen the agro-industrial sector poses a risk to Garífuna, Indigenous and rural communities—a risk that has been further exacerbated by the stigmatization and hate campaigns spread in the media.
- ❖ We are also concerned that foreign companies continue to operate in the Garífuna communities covered by the Court's rulings, **greatly affecting the communities' rights and violating the provisions of those rulings, including the right to free, prior, and informed consent.**



International Delegation in Solidarity with the Camp for the Life of the Garífuna Peoples

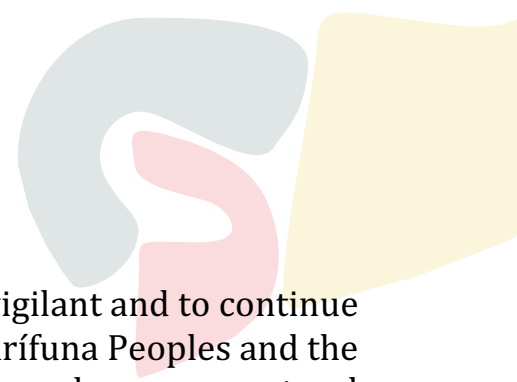


Given this situation, the members of the International Delegation:

- ❖ **Demand from the State of Honduras real compliance with the orders of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights regarding the four rulings it issued in favor of the Garífuna Peoples.**
- ❖ **It is imperative that the State stop catering to private interests and take decisive steps to streamline the process of registering and titling Garífuna ancestral lands, so as to ensure their full use.**
- ❖ **The approval of the “Law to Strengthen the Agro-industrial Sector” and the evictions that have been carried out under its authority contravene the treaties signed by the State of Honduras and violate the Court’s rulings.**
- ❖ **We also demand compliance with the Inter-American Court’s orders regarding the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the serious acts of violence committed against Garífuna community leaders and, in line with this, we demand an end to the repression, criminalization and stigmatization of OFRANEH human rights defenders.**
- ❖ **We support OFRANEH’s demand that any call for dialogue by the Honduran State be made only after the legal proceedings against the members of the San Juan community who were recently criminalized have been dropped and there is a clear path toward compliance with the Inter-American Court’s rulings. Otherwise, it will be nothing more than a farce that will not resolve the situation and will only exacerbate the violence and dispossession against the Garífuna Peoples.**



International Delegation in Solidarity with the Camp for the Life of the Garífuna Peoples



- ❖ We leave Honduras with the commitment to remain vigilant and to continue denouncing internationally the situation facing the Garífuna Peoples and the defenders and communities that struggle for territory and common natural resources.
- ❖ If we do not see clear and decisive steps toward compliance with the rulings and the violence against the communities continues, we will return to the country to insist that the Honduran State fulfill its international human rights obligations.
- ❖ We will demand that the governments of our countries ensure that companies fulfill their human rights obligations and stop investing in and interfering with the Garífuna communities that are covered by the Court rulings. We will also continue our advocacy efforts to encourage the international community to redouble its efforts to protect human rights defenders and ensure that Honduras fulfills its international obligations.
- ❖ We will continue to add voices, commitment and international solidarity with the Garífuna Peoples and all the communities and struggles in Honduras that work day in and day out for the rights and a dignified life for the people.
- ❖ We don't want to end without saying that we carry in our hearts the laughter of the girls and boys, the wise words of our Garífuna sisters and brothers, the stirring beat of their drums, the wholesome food, the warm welcome extended to everyone who arrives at the camp, the care they take of this emblematic location of Viva Berta Feminist Camp and the ancestral energy that is felt in every corner.

Alianza Rios Mayas (Mexico), Amigos de la Tierra ALC, Amnistía Internacional, Arte Sin Frontera (Mexico), Asociadas por lo Justo (JASS), Centro de Acción Legal para los Derechos Humanos (Guatemala), Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local de El Salvador, Colmena Cimarrona (Puerto Rico), Comité Salvemos Temaca, Acasico y Palmarejo (Mexico), Concejo de Pueblos de Occidente Guatemala, Concejo Wuxhtaj (Guatemala), Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca, Entrepueblos- Entrepobles- Entrepobos-Herriarte (Spanish State), Feministas Autoconvocadas de Cataluña por Nicaragua, Frente Petenero contra Represas (Guatemala), Fondo de Acción Urgente para ALC (FAU-LAC), Grassroots Internacional, Grup Suport (Spanish State), Honduras Delegation (Germany), Iniciativa Mesoamericana de Defensoras, Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración (Mexico), KATAZ (Mexico), Latinas en Poder (United States), Mi Verde Morada (Mexico), Mugarik Gabe (Spanish State), Oficina Ecuménica por la Paz y la Justicia (Germany), Organización Ditsö Iriria Ajkonuk Wakpa del Territorio Indígena Bribri de Salitre (Costa Rica), Otros Mundos Chiapas- Amigos de la Tierra Mexico (Mexico), Prensa Comunitaria (Guatemala), Prisma, Red de Movilidad SanCris ConBici (Mexico), Red Desc Red Internacional para los Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales, Red Mesoamericana Mujer, Salud y Migración, Red Nacional de Defensoras El Salvador, Red Nacional de Defensoras de Derechos Humanos (Mexico), Red Sol. Red de Solidaridad con Centroamérica (Switzerland), Taula per els Drets Humans i la pau a l'América Central, Zorrotkin (Mexico).

