

Freiburg, Germany 12 March 2016

To the President of Honduras  
Juan Orlando Hernandez  
To the President of the Parliament of Honduras  
Mauricio Oliva

To the Supreme Court of Justice of Honduras

CC: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (OAS)

We, winners of the world's leading environmental awards meeting at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Convention of Environmental Laureates in Freiburg, Germany in March 2016, are shocked and deeply saddened by the recent assassination of our dear and esteemed colleague, Berta Cáceres, social and environmentalist leader and head of the indigenous rights group COPINH.

Berta Cáceres worked tirelessly for human rights and economic justice in Honduras. For her efforts to defend the Gualcarque River, its surrounding environment and people from the Agua Zarca Dam, she just last year received the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize, awarding her international recognition.

As environmental laureates we are deeply concerned about the growing harassment and intimidation of human rights and environmental activists around the world. We take note that according to a 2015 report by Global Witness, Honduras is the most dangerous country in the world for environmental activists. After the brutal death of Berta Cáceres, people and governments all over the world are also taking note and are observing Honduras.

We ask the President of Honduras and the Justice of Honduras to undertake a complete investigation into Berta Cáceres' murder and to hold her assassins accountable. We ask you to protect the lives of the members of COPINH as they carry out their legitimate work, and to safeguard the life of Gustavo Castro Soto, survivor of the attack against Berta, and to not impede his return to Mexico.

Finally, we call on the Honduran state to ensure that the rights of the Indigenous peoples are recognized and respected.