



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Europe**

**FRIENDS OF THE EARTH EUROPE AND PROTECTION  
INTERNATIONAL INVITATION**



**Justice for Berta – Join us to stand in solidarity with COPINH**

Dear All,

Two Honduran activists from COPINH - the indigenous group that was led by murdered environmental and indigenous rights activist Berta Cáceres - are coming to Brussels on **Wednesday 20 April** to share their experiences of resistance and repression and call for justice for Berta.

The two delegates, Berta's daughter Bertha Zúñiga Cáceres and COPINH's general coordinator Jose Asencion Martinez, will denounce Berta's murder, call on the EU to suspend funding to Honduras and demand that Dutch development bank FMO and Finland-based FinnFund withdraw from the Agua Zarca project.

During their visit, Friends of the Earth Europe is helping to organise two activities aimed at raising awareness of the situation in Honduras. **We invite you to join us on Wednesday 20 April in Brussels for two public events:**

**1. Action in front of the Honduras embassy**

**What:** A colorful action to remember Berta Cáceres and Nelson Noe García, another member of COPINH killed few weeks after Berta. Berta's daughter will share her testimony and experience. We will call for independent investigations into their deaths, the end of killing of environmental activists and the end impunity of these crimes in Honduras and around the world. Come and bring your banners, posters and other materials.

**When:** Wednesday 20 April, at 12:30pm.

**Where:** Honduras Embassy. [Avenue de Cortenbergh](#), 89, 1000, Brussels.

**Find out more:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/1015016235211513/>

**2. Discussion: Solidarity across borders – How to support struggles in the Global South?**

**What:** Activists from Honduras and Liberia will share their experiences defending human rights, indigenous communities and the environment. The evening will also provide space to jointly reflect on the role that activists and NGOs in Brussels can play to support these struggles.

**When:** 20 April 6.30pm – 8pm approx.

**Where:** [Mundo-B building](#). Rue d'Edimbourg, 26, 1050 Brussels. Conference Room.

**Find out more:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/1277098858985182/>

The event is co-organised by FoEE and Protection International and supported by other organisations including CNCD-11.11.11 Platform, Intal America Latina and the European network on Central America and Mexico CIFCA.

**Join the COPINH actions**

Please help us to demand action for COPINH! We would be grateful if you could share the invitation and our Facebook events across your networks.

If you have any questions or comments regarding these actions, please contact us at [assistant@corporatejustice.org](mailto:assistant@corporatejustice.org). We look forward to seeing you on 20 April!

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Murder of Berta Caceres**

Honduran environmental and indigenous rights activist [Berta Cáceres was killed](#) at her home on March 3 - sparking worldwide expressions of outrage. Berta dedicated much of her life to rallying her fellow indigenous Lenca people against destructive development projects, including the Agua Zarca dam. More than one month later, Berta's murder remains unpunished; the Honduran government continues to reject calls for an independent, international investigation of Berta's murder to take place in Honduras.

### **Intimidation of environmental activists**

Since 2013, three other Indigenous Lenca people have been killed during the struggle against the Agua Zarca project, including Tomás Garcia, who was fatally shot by an army officer at close range. Other community members have been violently attacked and threatened for opposing the dam. The murders of Berta Caceres and the other COPINH members are not isolated incidents. They fit seamlessly into a larger pattern of financial and commercial interests being prioritised above the interests of people and the environment.

### **The Agua Zarca Hydroelectric project**

In March 2016, following the news that Nelson Garcia, another member of COPINH, had been assassinated (despite the international spotlight being on Honduras following Berta's murder), the European financiers of the Agua Zarca Hydroelectric project - Dutch development bank FMO and the Finnish Fund for Industrial Cooperation (Finnfund) - announced that they would temporarily suspend all disbursements towards the Agua Zarca project. It is however unclear whether this suspension will, or even can, lead to a permanent withdrawal from contractual obligations.