

HONDURAS MILPAH

Indigenous group opposing land exploitation

In one of the world's most dangerous countries for human rights defenders, an Indigenous group is bravely standing up against the exploitation of its land by powerful hydro-electric, mining and business interests. Members of the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz (MILPAH) face smear campaigns, death threats and physical assault. Those responsible are rarely brought to justice.

Honduras is a particularly perilous place for Indigenous and environmental defenders. In October 2015, MILPAH's Ana Miriam Romero was 24 weeks pregnant when armed men stormed her house looking for her husband, and beat her up. The following January, her house was torched. Two months later, prominent campaigner Berta Cáceres of COPINH, MILPAH's sister organisation, was murdered. In July 2016, two men threatened to kill Martin Gómez, the deputy coordinator of MILPAH.

But MILPAH refuses to give in.

'We have no weapons, we have no money, we have no power, but we do have a voice and we are using it. And that has enabled us to make real progress.'

Martin Gómez, MILPAH deputy general coordinator

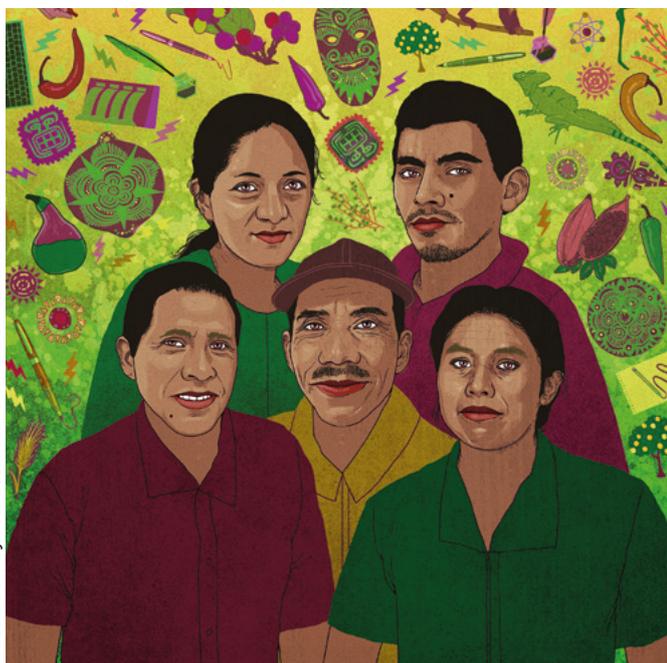


Illustration by Rebecca Hendin: rebeccahendin.com



SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

MILPAH
c/o CEHPRODEC
Colonia 15 de Septiembre
Calle Clemente Marroquin Rojas
Avenida Independencia, Casa 1902
C.P. 2571
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

- » **Language:** Spanish or English
- » **Suggested message:** Gracias MILPAH por trabajar día a día por los derechos de todas y todos, y por no desfallecer en la protección del medio ambiente, a pesar de las injusticias. En solidaridad. (Thank you MILPAH for working day after day for the rights of everyone, and for not failing to protect the environment despite the injustices you've faced. In solidarity.)

CAN I

- » Send a religious card or message? **No**
- » Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **Yes**
- » Include my name and address? **Yes**

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge the president to publicly recognise the important and legitimate work of MILPAH, and ensure the organisation can continue its human rights work free from harassment and ill-treatment.

- » **Write to:**
Sr. Presidente Juan Orlando Hernández
Casa Presidencial
Bulevar Juan Pablo II
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
- » **Salutation:** Estimado Señor Presidente
- » **In your letter:** Urge him to publicly recognise the important and legitimate work of MILPAH, and guarantee the safety of its members, fulfilling the government's obligation to protect them as set out by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights'. Call on him to publicly recognise the important and legitimate work of MILPAH and all human rights defenders in Honduras.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL** 