



Berta Cáceres, a Member of our Family, has been Assassinated

March 10, 2016

We are the recipients of the Goldman Environmental Prize and come from all corners of the world with the same goal, to protect the Earth and its natural resources. We are saddened and shocked at the death of one our sisters, Berta Cáceres, who was killed defending the land she and her ancestors have occupied for hundreds of years. Our hearts go out to her family and loved ones.

Berta was a member of the indigenous Lenca of Honduras and was devoted to her people and their rights to protect their homes and land from development. She lived her life in service to others with joy and kindness. As Berta said, "This best resistance is joy." Being with Berta, it was impossible not to love her.

Berta was totally committed to defend the environment and human rights in her country. The organization she founded more than 20 years ago, COPINH, was behind numerous struggles against mining and hydroelectric dams in Honduras. They succeeded in stopping large projects financed by international corporations and were attacked and threatened by military forces, para-military groups and corrupt politicians. When developers were blocked, Berta and her colleagues were attacked. Berta now joins eight others from COPINH who were killed before her.

Those who participated in her campaigns can give testimony to another rare quality she had: a woman with no fear at all. Berta was surrounded by threats and bullets, and at times, cars waiting for her in the road with armed men. But she continued to fight for human rights and the environment - women violated by their partners, children with malnutrition, and of course, the problems many of us worked on with her, unsustainable mining and hydroelectric dams. After knowing Berta's work, it was impossible not to admire her.

Thousands of people from around the world have reacted, honoring Berta's work and legacy. We cry out for a complete investigation into her murder. And in this moment, we remember the words of our brother who was also killed 20 years ago for fighting oil companies, Ken Saro Wiwa, as he was about to be put to death, "Oh God, take my soul, but the struggle continues."

Rest in peace, Berta.

In solidarity,



Ricardo Navarro, El Salvador 2005
Lois Marie Gibbs, US/New York 1990
Rossano Ercolini, Italy 2013
Andrew Simmons, St. Vincent & Grenadines 1994
Atherton Martin, Dominica 1998
Juan Pablo Orrego, Chile 1997
Oscar Olivera, Bolivia 2001
Tarcisio Feitosa da Silva, Brazil 2006
Sviatoslav Zabelin, Russia 1993
Evgenia Chirikova, Russia 2010
Paul Alan Cox, Western Samoa 1997
Olga Speranskaya, Russia 2009
Tuy Sereivathana, Cambodia 2010
Olya Melen, Ukraine 2006
Orri Vigfusson, Iceland 2007
Humberto Rios Labrada, Cuba 2010
Fatima Jibrell, Somalia 2002
Steve Wilson, US/Florida 2001
Bobby Peak, South Africa 1998
Bruno Van Peteghem, New Caledonia 2001
Carlos Alberto Ricardo, Brazil 1992
Alexander Nikitin, Russia 1997
Phyllis Omido, Kenya 2015
Ikal Angelei, Kenya 2012
Manana Kochladze, Georgia 2004
Jane Akre, US/Florida 2001
Thuli Makama, Swaziland 2010
Laila Iskandar Kamel, Egypt 1994
Hugo Jabini, Suriname 2009
Christine Jean, France 1992
Azzam Alwash, Iraq 2013
Janos Vargha, Hungary 1990
Nat Quansah, Madagascar 2000
Hilton Kelley, US/Texas 2011
Willie Corduff, Ireland 2007
Rudolf Amenga-Etego, Ghana 2004
Cath Wallace, New Zealand 1991
Elias Diaz Pena, Paraguay 2000
Ignace Schops, Belgium 2008
Matthew Coon Come, Canada 1994
Janet Gibson, Belize 1990
Juan Mayr, Colombia 1993
Heffa Schucking, Germany 1994
Ramesh Agrawal, India 2014



Prigi Arisandi, Indonesia 2011
Yuyun Ismawati, Indonesia 2009
Anna Giordano, Italy 1998
Yu Xiaogang, China 2006
Rudi Putra, Indonesia 2014
John Sinclair, Australia 1993
Lynn Henning, US/Michigan 2010
Father Edwin Gariguez, Philippines 2012
Craig Williams, US/Kentucky 2006
Howard Wood, Scotland 2015
Myint Zaw, Myanmar 2015
Francisco Pineda, El Salvador 2011
Ka Hsaw Wa, Burma 1999
Marilyn Baptiste, Canada 2015
Giorgos Catsadorakis, Greece 2001
Dmitry Lisitsyn, Russia 2011
Myrsini Malakou, Greece 2001
Sarah James, US/Alaska 2002
Desmond D'Sa, South Africa 2014
Eugene Rutagarama, Rwanda 2001
Ursula Sladek, Germany 2011
Marina Rikhvanova, Russia 2008
Silas Kpanan'Ayoung Siakor, Liberia 2006
Jean Wiener, Haiti 2015
Vera Mishenko, Russia 2000
Albena Simeonova, Bulgaria 1996
Alexander Peal, Liberia 2000
Maria Elena Foronda Farro, Peru 2003
Kimberly Wasserman, US/Illinois 2014
Odigha Odigha, Nigeria 2003
Michal Kravcik, Slovakia 1999
Marc Ona Essangui, Gabon 2009
Feliciano dos Santos, Mozambique 2008
Jadwiga Lopata, Poland 2002
Maria Gunnoe, US/West Virginia 2009
Tuenjai Deetes, Thailand 2002
Wadja Egnankou, Ivory Coast 1992
Randall Arauz, Costa Rica 2010
Oscar Rivas, Paraguay 2000
Suren Gazaryan, Russia 2014