**Letter to Justin Trudeau**

**Email: justin.trudea@parl.gc.ca**

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The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.

Prime Minister of Canada

House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario

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Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am writing to express my condemnation of the assassination of Berta Cáceres, general coordinator and co-founder of the National Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH). I am also writing to express my deep concern for the safety of Gustavo Castro Soto, a Mexican activist from Otros Mundos, Chiapas, who witness and survived the assassination of Ms. Cáceres.

Ms. Cáceres’ murder was witnessed by Gustavo Castro Soto, a Mexican citizen and colleague from the organization Otros Mundos Chiapas. Mr. Castro has fully participated in all aspects of the investigation into Ms. Cáceres’ assassination. On Sunday, March 6th, Mr. Castro attempted to leave Honduras legally and with protection from the Mexican Embassy in Honduras, but was detained by Honduran authorities at the airport under the argument that he had to give additional testimony, without having received prior notification of this. Honduran authorities are insisting on conducting additional interviews with Mr. Castro in Intibuca instead of from the safety of the Mexican Embassy in Tegucigalpa.

After assuring Mr. Soto verbally that he could leave Honduras after giving additional testimony, the Honduran Attorney General then issued a 30 day migratory alert requiring Mr. Soto to remain in Honduras, in spite of already having participated fully in the investigation.

I strongly urge the Government of Canada to take the following actions:

* urge the Honduran Government to revoke the migratory alert that keeps Gustavo Castro in Honduras and guarantee his safe and prompt return to Mexico;
* urge the Mexican Government to maintain and strengthen measures for Gustavo’s physical and psychological wellbeing in Honduras and safe return to Mexico;
* urge for an independent investigation with international participation, given the widely recognized weakness of the Honduran justice system to ensure a full and impartial investigation into Berta Cáceres’ assassination.

Sincerely,

cc.

stephane.dion@parl.gc.ca Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada

helene.laverdiere@parl.gc.ca Hélène Laverdière, NDP Critic, Foreign Affairs

tony.clement@parl.gc.ca Tony Clement, Conservative Critic, Foreign Affairs

rheal.fortin@parl.gc.ca Rhéal Fortin, Bloc Québécois Critic, Intergovernmental Affairs

elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party

tglpa@international.gc.ca Embassy of Honduras in Canada

infocan@sre.gob.mx,  Embassy of Mexico in Canada