

## Public Statement

### International Organizations & Individuals Stand in Solidarity with the Garifuna people of Honduras

For more than a decade, the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH) has denounced that there is a genocidal plan against Garifuna communities in Honduras. This plan has become critical in recent months, as Garifuna leaders have been directly attacked, harassed, and threatened by third-party settlers, including owners of extractivist and palm-oil projects, tourism investors, and drug-traffickers.

On March 9, 2024, the owner of the tourist complex “Rosa Negra” publicly harassed and threatened Garifuna leaders with racist, demeaning comments. Two months later, third-party settlers aligned with “Rosa Negra” barred the entrance of the Garifuna community of Triunfo de la Cruz and launched a media campaign aimed at generating divisions among the community.

On May 28, 2024, these third-party settlers, with support from the Tela mayor, Ricardo Calix, held a general assembly to elect a parallel community board, or *patronato* and, through this board, block efforts by the State of Honduras to comply with the 2015 Inter-American Court sentences which order the State to give back the land stolen from Garifuna communities. Similar tactics have been taken against other Garifuna communities, such as Travesia, where the municipal government is actively destroying the social fabric of the Garifuna community by also electing and imposing a parallel *patronato*. These acts of systematic violence seek to eradicate the Garifuna way of life and being.

While the State of Honduras is responsible for violating the land rights of the Garifuna people, the United States government, international finance institutions, and multilateral development banks are directly complicit in this violence, which emanates from bankrolling these projects and imposing a neoliberal economic model based on tourism, extractivism and exports. As organizations and individuals who stand in solidarity with the Garifuna people, we join OFRANEH in their demands by:

1. Publicly denouncing the violence enacted by global tourist companies, the U.S.-bound narcotics industry, and foreign-funded palm oil companies against Garifuna defenders and communities.
2. Calling on U.S. Congressional Representatives to support the OFRANEH Resolution ([H.Res. 1278](#)), which was reintroduced on June 5, 2024 by Rep. Cori Bush along with Reps. Ilhan Omar, Jesus “Chuy” Garcia, Jamaal Bowman, and Jan Schakowsky, which condemns the violence against the Garifuna people, mandates the return of their land, and calls on the US to take responsibility for stopping the financing of projects it is backing.
3. Calling on the State of Honduras to comply with the Inter-American Human Rights Court rulings, which orders the restitution of Garifuna land and guarantees of non-repetition.

4. Calling on the Honduran government to protect the lives and integrity of the Garifuna people.

Signatory Organizations:

- Witness for Peace Solidarity Collective (WfP-SC)
- Honduras Solidarity Network of North American (HSN)
- Institute of Policy Studies – Global Economy Program
- Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
- Root Causes Initiative
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas – Washington DC Justice Team
- Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)
- Denver Justice and Peace Committee (DJPC)
- Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN)
- Cross Border Network For Justice and Solidarity
- Rights Action U.S. and Canada
- Red Nacional de Defensoras de Derechos Humanos en Honduras
- Latin American Working Group (LAWG)
- Inter-Religious Task Force on Central America (IRTF)
- Central American Disruption
- Global Exchange
- Black Lives Matter - South Bend
- Centro Morelos - Mexico
- Black Co-Networks for Peace and Justice
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)
- Nicaragua Center for Community Action
- Stanford's Central American Student Association
- Teaching for Change
- Afroresistance
- Consejo Maya Mam Saq Tx'otx'
- Black Alliance for Peace
- Committee for Rojava
- Red Internacional de Promoters ODS - Honduras
- Movimiento Cimarrón Nacional Colombiano
- Confederación Campesina del Perú
- Massachusetts Peace Action (MAPA)

Signatory Individuals:

- Fernando Montero, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University
- Vaclav Masek, Ph.D. Candidate, Institute of Environmental Science and Technology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (ICTA-UAB)
- Jorge Cuéllar, Assistant Professor, Department of Latin American, Latino & Caribbean Studies, Dartmouth College
- Cristian Padilla Romero, PhD Candidate, Yale University
- Norma Peña-Flores, PhD Candidate, University of Maryland
- Jonathan Peraza Campos, M.S., MA and MAT Candidate at Georgia State University, educator, and organizer, Program Specialist for Teaching Central America at Teaching for Change
- Matthew Bridges
- David Brubaker
- Lupita Rodriguez, Dandelions Collective – MA in Data Analytics and Applied Social Research, CUNY
- Pablo Aguilera, Independent Consultant
- Carissa Brands
- Abou Farman, New School for Social Research
- Dulce Lopez, UCLA
- Freddy Jesse Izaguirre
- Madelyn Hoffman
- Yessica Martinez
- Julie Litwin
- Kimberly Balderas-Briones
- Elizabeth Lee
- Ayla Bailey
- Isabel Abrams, Miembro Comisión Internacional PAH
- Oscar Villalobos

## Pronunciamento Público

### Organizaciones internacionales e individuos se solidarizan con el pueblo Garífuna de Honduras

Desde hace más de una década, la Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña (OFRANEH) ha denunciado que se está ejecutando un plan genocida contra comunidades Garífunas en Honduras. Este plan se ha vuelto crítico en los últimos meses, ya que los líderes y lideresas Garífunas han sido atacados, acosados y amenazados directamente por terceros, incluidos propietarios de proyectos extractivistas y de aceite de palma, inversores turísticos y narcotraficantes.

El 9 de marzo de 2024, el propietario del complejo turístico “Rosa Negra” acosó y amenazó públicamente a líderes y lideresas Garífunas con comentarios racistas y degradantes. Dos meses después, terceros alineados a “Rosa Negra” prohibieron la entrada a la comunidad Garífuna de Triunfo de la Cruz y lanzaron una campaña mediática destinada a generar divisiones entre la comunidad.

El 28 de mayo de 2024, estos terceros, con el apoyo del alcalde de Tela, Ricardo Calix, convocaron una asamblea general para elegir un patronato paralelo, y, a través de este mismo, bloquear los esfuerzos del Estado de Honduras para cumplir con las sentencias de la Corte Interamericana de 2015 que ordena al Estado restituir el territorio ancestral a las comunidades Garífunas. Se han adoptado tácticas similares contra otras comunidades Garífunas, como Travesía, donde el gobierno municipal está destruyendo activamente el tejido social de la comunidad al elegir e imponer también un patronato paralelo. Estos actos de violencia sistemática no solo buscan terminar con su forma de vida, sino erradicar al pueblo Garífuna.

Si bien el Estado de Honduras es responsable de violar los derechos territoriales del pueblo Garífuna, el gobierno de los Estados Unidos, las instituciones financieras internacionales y los bancos multilaterales de desarrollo son directamente cómplices de esta violencia, la cual emana de financiar estos proyectos e imponer un modelo económico neoliberal basado en el turismo, el extractivismo y las exportaciones. Como organizaciones e individuos solidarios con el pueblo Garífuna, nos sumamos a las demandas de la OFRANEH y nos pronunciamos de la siguiente manera:

1. Denunciamos públicamente la violencia ejercida contra los líderes, lideresas y comunidades Garífunas por las empresas turísticas globales, la industria de narcóticos con destino a Estados Unidos y las empresas de aceite de palma con financiación extranjera.
2. Pedimos a los Representantes del Congreso Estadounidense que apoyen la Resolución OFRANEH ([H.Res. 1278](#)), que fue reintroducida el 5 de junio de 2024 por la representante Cori Bush junto con los representantes Ilhan Omar, Jesús “Chuy” García, Jamaal Bowman y Jan Schakowsky, que condena la violencia contra el pueblo Garífuna,

exige la devolución de sus tierras y pide a Estados Unidos que asuma la responsabilidad de detener la financiación de los proyectos que respalda.

3. Llamamos al Estado de Honduras a cumplir con las sentencias de la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, que ordena principalmente la restitución de tierras Garífunas y garantías de no repetición.
4. Llamamos al gobierno de Honduras a proteger la vida y la integridad del pueblo Garífuna.

#### Organizaciones firmantes:

- Witness for Peace Solidarity Collective (WfP-SC)
- Honduras Solidarity Network of North American (HSN)
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- Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
- Root Causes Initiative
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