

# URGENT ACTION

## OFFICES OF CÁCERES CASE LAWYERS BURGLARIZED

The offices of Honduran organization Broad Movement for Justice and Dignity (Movimiento Amplio por la Dignidad y la Justicia, MADJ) were burglarized on 13 July. The burglar stole computers with sensitive information on high-profile cases they represent, including the assassination of human rights defender Berta Cáceres. MADJ believes this incident is related to their work defending human rights.

In the early morning of 13 July, an unknown individual broke into MADJ's offices in San Pedro Sula, northwest Honduras. The individual only stole computer equipment, while sparing other goods and money. MADJ therefore fears that this new security incident is related to their work defending human rights rather than a common crime.

Security cameras installed within the organization's headquarters revealed that the individual reviewed several files, shelves and desks before running away on foot with two bags containing the equipment, including hardware, computers and cameras. The stolen equipment contains very sensitive information about paradigmatic cases of corruption and human rights violations that MADJ's lawyers are working on. One of the cases MADJ currently defends is the assassination of well-known land and environmental rights defender Berta Cáceres, which occurred in March 2016.

Although MADJ immediately reported incident to the Attorney General's Office and the Security Ministry, police only arrived at their offices in the mid-afternoon. MADJ also contacted the department in charge of human rights defenders' protection. The department has not yet called for any protection measures. This latest security incident confirms the increased risk faced by human rights defenders in Honduras performing their legitimate work.

### Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to initiate a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the burglary of MADJ's offices, to make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- Urging them to take all appropriate measures to guarantee the safety of MADJ members in accordance with their wishes, in order to fulfil their obligation to protect them as set out in the precautionary measures granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Authorities must also ensure the safety of victims and human rights defenders whose cases and information were stored in MADJ's computers;
- Calling on them to publicly recognize the legitimate human rights work of MADJ and all human rights defenders in the country.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 25 AUGUST 2016 TO:

#### Attorney General

Oscar Fernando Chinchilla  
Fiscal General de la República  
Ministerio Público  
Lomas del Guijarro  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Email: fiscalgeneral@hushmail.com  
Twitter: @MP\_Honduras  
@OFCHB

Salutation: Dear Attorney General/  
Estimado Señor Fiscal

#### Minister of Security

General de División Señor Julian  
Pacheco Tinoco  
Secretaría de Estado en el Despacho de  
Seguridad  
Aldea el Ocotal  
Antiguo Local de la Academia Nacional  
de Policía ANAPO  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Email: comunicacionCNDS@gmail.com  
sprudott@yahoo.com

Salutation: Dear Ministry of Security/  
Estimado Secretario de Seguridad

#### And copies to:

MADJ  
Email: madjequipolegal@gmail.com

#### National Human Rights Commission

Dr. Roberto Herrera Cáceres  
Comisionado Nacional de Derechos  
Humanos (CONADEH)  
Email: central@conadeh.hn

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

HIS EXCELLENCY MR IVAN ROMERO-MARTINEZ, Embassy of Honduras, 4th Floor 136 Baker Street W1U 6UD, Fax 020 7486 4550

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



Email hondurasuk@lineone.net Salutation Your Excellency

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In June 2016, MADJ reported several security incidents to the authorities, including surveillance, threats and harassment, in particular against its General Coordinator Martín Fernández.

MADJ provides legal representation on several paradigmatic and grave cases of attacks against territory, land and environmental rights defenders in Honduras, such as the struggle of the Tolupanes Indigenous Peoples against the development of economic projects on their lands (see Amnesty International public statement: <https://www.amnesty.org/es/documents/AMR37/2193/2015/es/>) and the fight for justice in the case of Berta Cáceres (see Urgent Action: *Defender killed, others harassed*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AMR37/3615/2016/en/>). Due to the high profile of these cases and the related risks, the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights issued precautionary measures for MADJ members in 2013.

Amnesty International has received concerning information about several security incidents against organizations or individuals that have accompanied or raised their voice against Berta Cáceres' murder. For example, individuals twice attempted to murder journalist Felix Molina on 2 May, hours after publishing information about potential intellectual authors of Berta Cáceres' murder. On 6 July Lesbia Urquía, a sympathizer of Berta Cáceres' organization, the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras, COPINH) and of the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz, (MILPAH) was murdered.

Honduras is one of the most dangerous countries for human rights defenders, especially those working on territory, land and environmental rights issues.

Name: Members of the Large Movement for Justice and Dignity (Movimiento Amplio por la Dignidad y la Justicia, MADJ) and those whose cases they represent

Gender m/f: all

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