

Reflection, Research and Communication Team ERIC  
ERIC-SJ & PROGRESS RADIO  
El Progreso, Yoro, Honduras, C.A.

October 24, 2019.

Attention: SHARE Foundation.

Subject: Request for support to accompany defenders of life, natural resources and democracy in Honduras.

Dear brothers and sisters of the SHARE Foundation: Fraternal solidarity greetings, we are united every day in support of those who need it most.

As you know, Honduras is going through a prolonged political crisis and the establishment of a dictatorship.

Since the coup d'état of 2009, with the loss of the rule of law, the penetration of drug trafficking and organized crime in the high levels of government, the Armed Forces and the Police. It has been implemented of an exclusive development model, based on privatization, extractivist and predator of natural resources, violator of human rights; and expeller of its inhabitants in several areas of the country with the social, political and economic consequences that have an impact on the quality of life of citizens who are forced to emigrate in search of better opportunities and the safeguarding of their lives.

Before the privatization policies of the common goods, the granting of illegal concessions for mining and water exploitation; various organized sectors have risen to defend their rights, their territories, their resources and their lives.

The response of the justice bodies to the fair claim of the affected citizenship has been the persecution, harassment, intimidation, police repression, illegal evictions, threats, stigmatization, deprivation of liberty and murder of environmental defenders.

One of the emblematic cases and that you already know, is that of the villagers, leaders of the community of Guapinol, organized in the Municipal Committee of Defense of the Common and Public Assets, several of them "*Delegados de la Palabra*"/delegates of the word of the Jesuit parish in Tocoa, Colón; who have peacefully protested the illegal concession granted for mining exploitation to the company *Inversiones Los Pinares*, owned by Lenir Pérez and Ana Facussé. This project affects the National Park "*Mountain of Botaderos*", later renamed "*Carlos Escaleras Mejía*".

This park is a protected area where, according to national legislation, mining activities are prohibited. Despite this, the National Congress passed a decree to reduce the protected area just in the territory where the mining projects were implemented.

The leaders are currently facing legal proceedings, 32 have arrest warrants, accused of eight crimes among them of illicit association; twelve of them are imprisoned in maximum security prisons, in subhuman conditions and without due process.

The struggle of the Committee in Defense of Common and Public Assets has been recognized internationally in particular with the 2019 Letelier-Moffit Prize, awarded by the Institute for Political Studies in Washington D.C.

Maintaining their voices in search of justice, motivates our request for support presented to The SHARE Fundación, as it is necessary to continue carrying out solidarity actions at the national and international level, provide legal advocacy, accompany mobilizations, raise awareness and advocate to avoid injustice in the judicial process and demand respect for the physical integrity of the accused.

To this end, the following objective is proposed: **TO PROVIDE ACCOMPANIMENT TO DEFENDERS OF LIFE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND DEMOCRACY IN HONDURAS.**

The amount requested is \$ 40,000 to carry out the activities of legal advocacy, mobilization, communication, awareness and advocacy; of which \$ 10,000.00 will be allocated to the community of Guapinol in humanitarian assistance and direct support through Father Gregorio Vásquez, S.J. the Parish priest of the San Isidro Labrador Church in Tocoa, Colon.

These moments continue to require all our solidarity to protect the lives of men and women who, through their social, human and Christian commitment, give us an example of courage and love for Mother Earth.

With deep thanks, brothers and sisters of the SHARE Fundación abrazo fraternos/a fraternal embrace,

Ismael Moreno Coto, SJ.

Executive Director, ERIC/Radio Progreso