2024 HONDURAS PROGRAM

The year 2024, like the years preceding it, was a year filled with ineffable violence against environmental and human rights defenders in Honduras. Out of the distinct territories in Honduras came stories of racialized police brutality, tactics of surveillance that included new drone technologies, national/international corporations poisoning lands, rivers, and air. We've lost too many compañerxs, including Juan López, Selvin Garcia, and Marvin Dubon.

First and foremost, we put our compañerxs at the forefront of this letter and close the year grounded in the knowledge that the *lucha* against all forms of settler-colonialism continue, far beyond Witness for Peace's existence. We also want to vocalize our grief as this year closes. In a world where capitalism, white supremacy, colonialism, and imperialism dominate, we recognize grief as inherently political and necessary to move forward with action. We grieve with our compañerxs as we look back at what this year brought, and we grieve at the closing of Witness for Peace's Honduras Program.

We are and will always be eternally grateful to our community partners. Through the years, they have allowed us to support their work and build solidarity beyond mapped borders. This year we built solidarities through accompaniments, public denouncements, the campaign behind the OFRANEH Resolution, international letters of support, the Aguán newsletter, meetings with Honduras and U.S. lawmakers, and a summer delegation that brought U.S. folks to the isthmus with the purpose of building transnational knowledges. It has been an honor to work alongside each and every single compañerx that has welcomed us into their communities, into their homes, into their lives.

We are also eternally grateful for all compañerxs who have been introduced to the fight through Witness for Peace. To everyone who has amplified our community partners' work, traveled in delegations, donated, and created lines of communication with Honduran leaders: our gratitude is boundless. This work has not been the work of one person, or two, or even three, but that of hundreds who have built Witness For Peace's Honduras Program since its inception a decade ago.

As we close the year, we urge everyone to let your grief guide you towards the future and encourage all to find opportunities for mobilization. Honduras is ramping up for an election in 2025, and we must look closely at how the upcoming Trump administration weaponizes rhetoric to promote interventionism. The work is not done-and we *must* remember that.

In solidarity always,

The Honduras Team



2024 HONDURAS PROGRAM

ACCOMPANIMENTS

Throughout 2024, the Honduras team has accompanied the following organizations, movements, and grassroots bases:

- Agrarian Platform in the Aguán Valley
- Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH)
- Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ)
- Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH)
- National Coordination of Indigenous and Black Women of Honduras (CONAMINH)

We went on a total of 22 accompaniments, which included visits to communities impacted firsthand by extractive violence, meetings with governmental entities, criminalization trials, and meetings in coalition spaces.



PUTTING THE US & CANADA ON TRIAL

The Honduras Team, through their involvement with the Honduran Solidarity Network (HSN), supported the launch of the campaign "Putting the US & Canada On Trial" with the objective of holding the U.S. and Canada responsible for their complicity in bolstering the Juan Orlando Hernandez narco-regime. We worked in coalition with organizations in Canada and the U.S. to contact Canadian Members of Parliament and U.S. Congressional representatives demand to investigations into the role of our governments in backing the narco-state in Honduras.



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OFRANEH RESOLUTION

Throughout the beginning of 2024, our Honduras team worked with and alongside the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH) to edit, revise, and prepare for the presentation of the OFRANEH Resolution (H.Res. 1278) in June.

On June 5, 2024, in an important act of solidarity, Rep. Bush (MO-01) with support from Rep. Ilhan Omar (MN-05), Rep. Jesus "Chuy" Garcia (IL-04), Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL-09), and Rep. Jamaal Bowman (NY-16) reintroduced the resolution, H.Res. 1278 condemning the violent and illegal appropriation of Garífuna territory, urging the Department of State and multilateral development banks to respect the rights of the Garifuna people, and calling on the Government of Honduras to fully comply with the resolutions of multilateral human rights bodies which mandate the return of Garífuna land and territory.



DELEGATION OF U.S.-BASED ACTIVISTS TO HONDURAS

From August 1st to the 10th, we hosted our delegation "Root Causes of Migration," with U.S.based activists. During this delegation, we visited the Honduran organizations Plataforma Agraria, MADJ, COPINH, and OFRANEH, where we gained a deeper understanding of their struggles and ways to be in solidarity. We also met with Red Comal to learn about solidarity economies, and the Ilimitada where we shared different lived-experiences of organizing across countries. Throughout the delegation, we created spaces that fomented north-south and south-north connections.

We concluded at the Picacho National Park where we dedicated time to planning future actions in support of communities and to hold the U.S. responsible for their damaging policies in Honduras.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTINUE KEEPING IN CONTACT WITH HONDURAN PARTNERS?

To those who would like to stay in touch with the organizations and communities that we have accompanied, please let us at honduras@solidaritycollective.org. You can also fill out this <u>online</u> form.