

National declaration of emergency in Bajo Aguánⁱ

Nelly Del Cid; Institute Justice Team

[A declaration issued on 01 February 2025 by activists in Honduras, including Mercy sisters and associates]

The organizations of the social, popular, feminist, human rights, indigenous, Garifuna, artistic, sexual dissident, Afro-indigenous, and student movements of Hondurasⁱⁱ declare the area of the campesino (poor farmer) cooperatives of Camarones, El Tranvío, and El Chile as an emergency territory due to mortal risk from armed attacks by groups of hired assassins (sicarios) – supported by guards [employed by] the DINANTⁱⁱⁱ Corporation – who are displacing and killing campesinos to evict them from the land they have organized to defend.

In this context we [the signing organizations] warn:

1. That this is a strategy to dismantle the campesino and indigenous struggle in this territory and throughout the country.
2. In these settlements there are women, men, boys, and girls who have been living in terror every day for months, which has worsened in these last days of January. The calls for help and solidarity through broadcasts and calls from people who are in the area have not touched this government headed by President Xiomara Castro, now complicit in what is happening there. The national police stationed in the area with a deployment of agents and equipment do not intervene in favor of the lives of the land defenders; and the supposed judicial mechanisms are not effective in capturing the leaders of these groups that keep campesino families terrorized. The ministers and government officials who should preserve life only justify themselves, publicly lament, and put off a reality in which people are already reported injured, kidnapped, and murdered.
3. The campesino movement of the Aguán, accompanied once again by the entire social movement of this country, is once again denouncing the lack of compliance

(i) Bajo Aguán - lower region of Aguán River valley, major agricultural producing region, 20% owned by DINANT

(ii) signatories listed with their logos on page 3

(iii) DINANT Corporation: palm oil corporation of the Facusse family, heavily supported by World Bank, linked to numerous murders connected to land evictions and illicit drug trade, with a private army

with the agreements that President Xiomara Castro signed with the Agrarian Platform and COPA on February 22, 2022, to resolve the situation that should never have reached this level of extreme and historic violence in the Bajo Aguán region.

4. We point out from now on that the government of the president and its officials are complicit in the aggression, displacement, persecution, criminalization, and murder of the families who are under fire on the sacred soil of Honduras that they promised to defend, because despite being fully informed of the gravity of the situation, they do not respond to the level of this lethal crisis. At this moment making this declaration, we receive the terrible news of the murder of two people, members of the Gregorio Chávez Association: Suyapa Guillén, a member of the Network of Peasant Women, and her partner, José Luis Hernández Lobo.
5. The people of the Aguán are not alone. We call on all organizations and communities to join in to protect the lives of campesino families who are under fire today. We ask you to disseminate this call and follow up on the actions that we will be calling for.

ORGANIZACIONES FIRMANTES



- Programa Misericordia Tejedora de sueños
- Hermanas de la Misericordia de Honduras
- Colectivo No Binarie
- Red contra la violencia de Intibucá
- Colectivo Contraportada
- Organización de Jóvenes Miskitus – DIWAT