

## TAKE ACTION!

### Defend the defenders of water and land



By **February 25, 2024** (i.e., two years after the Guapinol Eight were released), we want to send **32,000 signatures** (1,000 for each of the 32 people charged at the Guapinol camp) on a letter to the Honduran ambassador to Canada.

Your signatures will add weight to the letter, which presses the Government of Honduras to:

- **Bring to justice** everyone involved in murdering the three Guapinol defenders
- **Fairly recompense** the Guapinol Eight and their families
- **Better protect** all Honduran human rights and environmental defenders
- **Stop** all mining activities in Carlos Escaleras National Park and restore it
- **Cancel** all irregularly granted mining permits

### Let's stand together! Sign and share!



1. **Sign a paper copy of the letter to the ambassador** in your parish/school. Or sign it online by scanning this QR code or visiting [devp.org/act](https://devp.org/act).
2. **Please send all signed letters** to the address below or to [action@devp.org](mailto:action@devp.org).

### From Honduras to home

As you support the Honduran defenders, also consider pitching in for the environment closer to home. Organize a neighbourhood cleanup. Pick and publicize a place and time; bring gloves and garbage bags; and turn it into an opportunity to promote the campaign and collect signatures.

Learn more at [devp.org/campaign](https://devp.org/campaign).



### Spread the word!

- Follow @DevPeace     
- Use the following hashtags in your posts  
#CreateHope #StandfortheLand #Guapinol



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Development  
and Peace  
CARITAS CANADA

CREATE  
HOPE

# STAND FOR THE LAND

*"Communities are displaced.  
Rights are violated.  
Access and right to water  
are denied. All this to give  
priority to the extraction  
and pillage of resources."*

— Leonel George  
Member of the Defense of  
Common and Public Goods  
Committee in Tocoa, Colón.



# DEFENDING WATER AND LAND IN HONDURAS



Around the world, people who defend the environment, water and land are often threatened, criminalized, imprisoned or even killed. **Honduras** is no exception and is one of the five most dangerous countries in the world in this respect.

Since 2015, the communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector have been trying in vain to have an open-pit iron mine shut down. The permit for the mine in the Montaña de Botaderos Carlos Escaleras National Park was irregularly granted to the *Inversiones los Pinares* company.

By 2018, pollution from the mine had made the Guapinol River's water unfit for consumption. So, the riverside communities mobilized and set up the Guapinol Camp for Water and Life. After 88 days of peaceful demonstrations, the camp was violently dismantled by the police and armed forces. 32 of the defenders were charged with various contrived offences. Eight of them, who came to be called the Guapinol Eight, were unjustly detained for 914 days.

Since January 2023, three defenders from Guapinol have been killed, adding to the heavy toll of more than 135 defenders murdered in Honduras since 2014.



**Out with the Mines!**

## Standing with the Defenders of Guapinol

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada has been asked by its partner ERIC-Radio Progreso to raise awareness of the tragic plight of the communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector. We stand with them as they defend their right to water and fight to obtain:

- Justice
- Reparations and protection
- The cancellation of the irregularly granted mining concession
- The restoration of the national park



*"The Government of Honduras must act diligently and suspend these extractive activities, which are carried out illegally and with total disregard for the environment."*  
— Elvin Hernández, human rights investigator,  
ERIC-Radio Progreso

## A question of Water and Life for Daniel

José Daniel Márquez, a 44-year-old farmer, is one of the Guapinol Eight who were detained for over two years. Their "crime" was defending the Carlos Escaleras National Park, home to the sources of the Guapinol and San Pedro rivers. Worryingly for the community, the Guapinol has also been considerably depleted since 2018, even running dry in places. The situation remains very tense for the Guapinol defenders. They continually fear for themselves or their children. Daniel no longer dares to go out alone.

*"In our country, the authorities only listen to big companies that wield economic power. The people who protect water sources suffer because they are not listened to. On the contrary, they are condemned, persecuted, imprisoned and, in the worst cases, killed. It is urgent to cancel all mining in this area of our park. The company must be stopped. All the damage it has caused to our rivers and mountains must be repaired."*

Learn more at [devp.org/campaign](https://devp.org/campaign)

