

URGENT ACTION

JUSTICE FOR WATER DEFENDER KILLED

Juan López was murdered in his vehicle on 14 September 2024 in Tocoa, Honduras. The alleged hitman and two alleged accomplices have been charged with murder and are in custody awaiting trial. No intellectual authors of the murder have been prosecuted or brought to justice so far. We will continue monitoring the investigations into Juan's murder and expressing concern about the situation of his family, the Municipal Committee for the Defence of Common and Public Goods (CMDBCP) and their lawyers, as well as calling the Honduran authorities for justice for Juan López and protection for his family, members of the CMDBCP and their lawyers.

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.

Juan López was murdered in his vehicle after presiding over a leaving a religious service which he oversaw on September 14, 2024 in Tocoa, Honduras. The alleged hitman and two alleged accomplices have been charged with murder and are in custody awaiting trial. Despite national and global calls for integral justice for Juan López, no intellectual authors of the murder have been prosecuted or brought to justice so far.

One month after López's murder, a local court dismissed appeals against a favourable resolution of the Supreme Court of Justice ruled in 2023 that annulled unfounded criminal proceedings against five environmental defenders from Tocoa, including Juan López. If the appeals had been accepted the defenders could have face criminal prosecution for peacefully challenging the legality of a mining project in the Carlos Escaleras National Park.

The public campaign on behalf of Juan López, his family, CMDBCPT members, as well as their legal team and witnesses contributed to expanded public oversight and accountability. We will continue monitoring the progress of the judicial process, calling Honduran authorities to identify all material and intellectual authors responsible for the murder, and refrain from using the justice system to harass the defenders of Tocoa, as well as supporting López's family, organization, lawyers and witnesses to stay safe. We will also let you know if any further action is needed.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Juan López (he/his)

THIS IS THE THIRD AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA AMR 8524

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr37/8705/2024/en/>

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