

8 January 2018

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
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Dear Minister Freeland,

Following our letter of December 5, 2017, in which we expressed our concern about the violence and repression taking place in Honduras after the national elections held on 26 November 2017, we write you again to alert you to the fact that a highly organized smear campaign against our fellow Jesuit Fr. Ismael Moreno SJ and eight other community leaders is currently under way in Honduras. We are deeply concerned for their safety, as this tactic of discrediting leaders has been used in the past to incite and justify violence.

Attached please find a statement that our fellow Jesuits in Latin America have made, denouncing this campaign and calling on the international community to support these community leaders.

We call on the government of Canada to take action by condemning any attempt to discredit these community leaders, by denouncing the actions of the current Honduran government, by calling for an independent investigation into all claims of state involvement in electoral fraud and violence during and since the 26 November elections, and by urging a peaceful resolution to the current political crisis in Honduras.

Canada needs to speak out strongly and unequivocally against all violations of human rights in Honduras. Thank you for your attention to this urgent situation.

Sincerely,



Fr Peter Bisson SJ  
Provincial Superior  
Jesuits in English Canada

P. Erik Oland SJ  
Supérieur provincial  
Les jésuites du Canada français et d'Haïti

Cc: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
Ambassador James Hill, Canadian Ambassador to Honduras  
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