

From: Janet Spring [<mailto:jspring2@lakeheadu.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 6:29 PM
To: Freeland, Chrystia - M.P.
Subject: Karen Spring, Edwin Espinal Urgent Request

Dear Ms. Freeland

I am writing to you as a mother of Karen Spring. Karen is working in Honduras as a co-ordinator of the human rights organization - the Honduran Solidarity Network. Karen and her partner Edwin Espinal (a Honduran) have experienced severe repression due to their work assisting Honduran citizens who have been the target of violent repression since the November 2017 election. On January 19, 2018, Edwin Espinal was taken by masked military police and detained on false charges for his work with the pro-democracy movement. He is being held indefinitely in a maximum security military prison, La Tolva, despite having protective measures from the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights since 2010. He has been denied all due legal process - no family is allowed to visit him or lawyers to offer him counsel. Human rights organizations have been denied access. We are therefore very fearful for his safety as he has been a target of harassment by the Hernandez regime since the military coup of 2009. We are demanding his immediate release.

In a recent statement, the Canadian Ambassador to Honduras remarked that "Canada is deeply concerned by the situation in Honduras" where "the right to protest peacefully should be respected", however, little has been done by the Canadian government to demand that these human rights be upheld. Our family is therefore deeply concerned as we fear for our two family members, Edwin and Karen. We urge you and James Hill to act immediately to demand Edwin's release and Karen's safety.

For further information, please refer to our wordpress site, located at:
<https://simcoecountyhondurasrightsmonitor.wordpress.com/>. For further information, I may be contacted at: 705-734-4238.

Sincerely
Dr. Janet Spring
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