

URGENT ACTION!!

Update #4 – March 4, 2018

Honduran Political Prisoner Edwin Espinal is Refusing Food, Demanding to See a Doctor

Since Wednesday, February 28, political prisoner Edwin Robelo Espinal has been sick with a flu-like virus. Edwin is being held in the military-run, maximum security “La Tolva” prison in southeastern Honduras and being charged with crimes related to the post-electoral crisis and repression.

There is some sort of flu-like virus circulating inside the jail module where approximately 200 prisoners are being held. Edwin and at least 20 other prisoners have been complaining of the following symptoms: severe headache, sore throat, nasal discharge, chest congestion, facial pain (concentrated in the sinus area), respiratory problems especially at night, and diarrhea.

Given that there has been no response from the recently appointed La Tolva prison director Osman Rodas about the medical concerns of the prisoners, Edwin decided to start refusing all food until he is taken to see a physician. The circulating virus is likely linked to the poor conditions inside the prison including severe water shortages and less than adequate amounts of food given to prisoners (see the [previous update for an overview of the conditions](#)). Their sicknesses may also be related to or worsened by the fact that they can only defecate during an hour timeframe in the morning as a result of water shortages.

On top of all of this, we are also concerned that he may suffer further persecution and repression by prison authorities for taking a dignified stance on these issues inside the prison.

Please contact US and Canadian authorities listed below and Demand that they:

- Directly pressure appropriate Honduran authorities to immediately guarantee full and proper medical attention, food and water inside the prison.
- Send US and Canadian authorities to the prison to visit prisoners directly and to verify conditions inside prison.
- Pressure that all charges be immediately dropped and all 27 political prisoners around the country be released!
