



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

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PETITION NO.: **421-00779**

BY: **Ms. MAY (SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS)**

DATE: **OCTOBER 19, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE STÉPHANE DION**

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Response by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

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SUBJECT

**Honduras**

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**ORIGINAL TEXT**

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**REPLY**

The promotion and protection of human rights is an integral part of Canadian foreign policy and a long-standing priority in our relationship with Honduras. Canada advocates for human rights and takes principled positions on important issues to promote human rights, inclusive and accountable governance and peaceful pluralism, values that define this country around the world.

Canada engages in development and security programming that promotes human rights. Honduras, benefits from the largest bilateral development program in Central America, with approximately \$23 million in annual disbursements, making Canada the third largest bilateral donor in Honduras. Canada's programming focuses on two mutually-reinforcing priorities: (1) governance and human rights, and (2) sustainable economic growth. Canada's latest announcement of a \$5 million contribution to the Organization of American States (OAS) Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) will help strengthen Honduran institutions and contribute to a much stronger justice system.

Following the killing of Berta Cáceres in March 2016, Canada's Ambassador immediately issued statements, including a joint press release with the international community in Honduras, condemning the killings and urging Honduran authorities to investigate, bring the perpetrators to justice and provide protection to human rights defenders.