

Generalstaatsanwalt Oscar Fernando Chinchilla
Ministerio Público República de Honduras
Lomas de Guijarro, Edificio Lomas Plaza II
Ave. República Dominicana
Tegucigalpa, HONDURAS

Imprisoned Environmental Defenders

Dear Attorney General,

I'm writing to express my deepest concern that only two of the eight environmental human rights defenders of the Guapinol River were acquitted and released on 9 February.

The remaining members of the "Guapinol Eight", José Daniel Márquez, Kelvin Alejandro Romero, José Abelino Cedillo, Porfirio Sorto Cedillo, Ewer Alexander Cedillo, and Orbin Nahún Hernández, who had been in pre-trial detention for more than two years, were found guilty of the crime of kidnapping (unlawful deprivation of liberty) and aggravated arson against the head of security of the mining company Inversiones Los Pinares (ILP), and of aggravated arson against ILP. These charges are politically motivated. Their prosecution is aimed to deter and punish them for their peaceful human rights work and their arbitrary detention is solely for standing up in defence of protected water sources in danger by a mining project.

I urge you to take all necessary steps to end the prosecution of the six Guapinol defenders José Daniel Márquez, Kelvin Alejandro Romero, José Abelino Cedillo, Porfirio Sorto Cedillo, Ewer Alexander Cedillo and Orbin Nahún Hernández. Please ensure their wellbeing and grant their immediate and unconditional release.

Yours sincerely,