

URGENT ACTION

MEXICAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER RETURNS HOME

Mexican human rights defender Gustavo Castro Soto, sole witness to the murder of Indigenous leader Berta Cáceres, has returned to Mexico. Honduran authorities had previously ordered him to remain in the country until 6 April.

Gustavo Castro Soto arrived in Mexico City on 1 April. The day before, a judge in Intibucá department, Honduras, lifted the migration alert that had been in place since 7 March and had ordered that he remain in the country for 30 more days to provide testimony in the case of the murder of Berta Cáceres. In a press release, the Attorney General's office said that his presence could be solicited again if new elements in the investigation should arise.

Berta Cáceres, leader and co-founder of the Council of Indigenous Peoples of Honduras (COPINH), was shot dead in her home on 3 March in La Esperanza in Intibucá department. Gustavo Castro was at her home and injured by a gunshot. Gustavo Castro, who took up residency for his safety in the Mexican embassy in the capital Tegucigalpa, had repeatedly provided his version of the murder to local authorities and feared for his life in Honduras.

Berta Cáceres had received threats for years in connection to her work defending the rights of Indigenous communities and the environment. Most recently, Berta Cáceres and COPINH had denounced threats and harassment in connection to their protests against the construction of the Agua Zarca dam in the community of Río Blanco.

No further action is requested of the UA network at this time. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the second update of UA 50/16. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr37/3614/2016/en/

Name: Gustavo Castro Soto
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 50/16 Index: AMR 37/3775/2016 Issue Date: 5 April 2016