

From: <James.Hill@international.gc.ca>

Date: Mon, Feb 19, 2018 at 9:58 AM

Subject: Re: Urgent Family Matter - Honduras - Edwin Espinal and Karen Spring

To: jspring2@lakeheadu.ca

Cc: Kyle.Sundstrom@international.gc.ca, Michael.Roy@international.gc.ca

Dear Dr. Spring,

Thank you for your message regarding your daughter, Ms. Karen Spring and her partner Mr. Edwin Espinal. The Embassy of Canada remains concerned for the safety of human rights defenders in Honduras, in particular since the conclusion of national elections in late 2017.

The Embassy of Canada has monitored closely Mr. Espinal's case and we continue to remind Honduran officials that all must be treated fairly and in accordance with the rule of law. As the situation evolves, we will continue to explore the options at our disposal to provide support to Mr. Espinal and other human rights defenders.

I was pleased to learn that, beyond the advice provided directly by our office in Tegucigalpa, consular officials from Global Affairs Canada have been in contact your daughter directly. You may be aware that I have also been in direct contact with Ms. Spring.

The promotion of human rights and the protection of human rights defenders are at the core of Canada's engagement with Honduras. Canada regularly raises concerns and calls for greater respect for human rights and their defenders, especially when they face threats and arrest. We maintain an open dialogue with the Honduran government in order to advocate for greater respect for human rights and urge the Honduran authorities to conduct thorough investigations in accordance with the rule of law.

Thank you for raising your legitimate concerns regarding the safety of both Ms. Spring and Mr. Espinal. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and the broader concerns you have raised regarding Honduras.

Thank you for writing.

James K. Hill

Ambassador

Embassy of Canada. - Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras