

The Honduran political crisis began when incumbent President Juan Orlando Hernández claimed victory in the election, a claim rejected by the opposition candidates. The opposition and international monitors say the election was characterized by widespread irregularities and electoral fraud.

To protest against election fraud, the opposition organized peaceful demonstrations across the country in which hundreds of thousands of Hondurans participated. Hernandez responded with emergency measures, lethal violence against demonstrators, and the arrest of opposition leaders. Hundreds of opposition activists have been arrested and more than 30 demonstrators have been killed by the police and military. Our daughter Karen and her partner Edwin are among those affected by these repressive measures. Edwin, who is a pro-democracy organizer was arrested, imprisoned, and his case was brought forward as a hearing before a military tribunal. Karen, who has worked for pro-democracy NGOs in Honduras for 8 years is also at risk. Our family is in fear for Edwin's safety as he has been denied due process. Karen's safety is at risk as well.

The Organization of American States (OAS) has called for new elections in Honduras but despite this, the United States immediately recognized Hernandez' victory claim – Canada hastily followed the U.S. lead. However, Global Affairs Canada also issued a statement that gives us some hope. It called on the Honduran government to, "protect human rights and ensure those responsible for violations are held responsible."

We are asking that the Government of Canada swiftly act upon these words, that it act to protect not only our daughter Karen and Edwin, but all of the opposition members who are being terrorized. Global Affairs Canada must investigate and exercise whatever influence it has with the Hernandez government to ensure that it stops using violence against demonstrators, stops arresting opposition members and releases the hundreds of opposition members who have been arrested.

My fellow Canadians, family and friends, please assist us by demanding the immediate release of Edwin Robelo Espinal.

Contact Your member of Parliament. Please refer to this link to find your MP information.

<http://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members>

2) Call for the Canadian government to investigate and ensure that the Hernandez government stops using violence against demonstrators, stops arresting opposition members and releases the hundreds of opposition members who have been arrested.

Thank you so much.

Janet and John Spring