

La Esperanza, Intibucá, Honduras on the 19th day of May 2022.

**THE LENCA PEOPLE IN HONDURAS ARE BEING AFFECTED BY DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN.**

Dear Prime Minister,

**We, the Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras, COPINH, a partner organization of We Effect, are writing to express our deep concern about the decision to drastically reduce Swedish development cooperation.**

The war in Ukraine has highlighted the seriousness of vulnerable groups being affected in times of crisis. Already bearing the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate crisis, people in poverty are now suffering from soaring food prices.

The UN Secretary General warns that 1.7 billion people, one-fifth of the world's population, are at risk of hunger and poverty. The world is in the worst humanitarian situation since World War II. Nearly half of humanity lives in the danger zone of the climate crisis. We, in Honduras, are witnesses to the UN reports. With this in mind, the historic and tragic decision to cut development assistance will impact us in unprecedented ways. For us, the cut has drastic implications/effects.

1. It eliminates our activities to raise awareness about territorial and indigenous rights, to promote respect for the territories that produce the food of 200 Lenca communities.

2. The elimination of our actions to demand justice for our colleague Berta Cáceres, assassinated for defending the rights and territories of the Lenca indigenous people.
3. Our training processes on the recovery of productive systems to ensure food sovereignty for 60 Lenca indigenous families are eliminated.



Photo COPINH. Discussion with Lenca community leaders about the impact on planned activities due to unexpected cuts from donor We Effect. May 18, 2022. Intibucá, Intibucá, Honduras.

Dear Magdalena, as Prime Minister of Sweden and leader of your government, we know that you believe strongly in international solidarity. We appreciate the support your country has given in the past. We now encourage you to stand with us in these complex times and re-evaluate the decision to cut back on development cooperation, to ensure that the

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consequences of the war in Ukraine and the climate crisis are as limited as possible. **COPINH**

Show your full support for civil society organizations and indigenous communities. Your financial support is needed more than ever. It is a long-term investment in a more sustainable and just world. We look forward to hearing from you.

Bertha Isabel Zúñiga Cáceres.

General Coordinator.

COPINH.