

# Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8



Karla Eugenia Cueva Aguilar  
Ministerio de Derechos Humanos  
Palmira, Edificio Torre Futura, Ave. República de Panamá,  
Tegucigalpa, M.D.C., Honduras

Aug 6, 2019

## Honduras Land Defenders In Rio Blanco Still At Risk

Dear Minister Cueva,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we insist that you guarantee the safety of the members of the community of Rio Blanco. We also call on you to investigate the recent attacks against their community. It is crucial to recognize that there is now an increased risk of further violence, especially since the Rio Blanco community has been attacked in the past, after defending their rights to be consulted and involved in the construction of the Agua Zarca dam in the Gualcarque River.

We are deeply concerned by reports from Amnesty International and the Civic Council of Popular Indigenous Organizations of Honduras that recent attacks have affected at least 25 families in the community in Rio Blanco. These attacks, which took place on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, involved threats of violence against multiple families, and the intentional destruction of food crops. Given the history of attacks against the Rio Blanco indigenous community, we ask that you ensure the safety of members of the community of Rio Blanco and COPINH, in agreement with them.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sierra Rae".

Sierra Rae  
President  
TRU Students' Union

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Hayashi".

Brandon Hayashi  
Vice President Equity  
TRU Students' Union

Cc: Her Excellency Sofia Lastenia Cerrato Rodríguez and The Honourable Chrystia Freeland