



Tocoa, Colón, Honduras  
November 28, 2024

On behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee based in the United States, we are here in solidarity with the people of Tocoa and Honduras in these moments of pain and mourning to accompany their struggle.

We are here today in Tocoa, Colón to join our voices with the thousands that are demanding true justice for Juan López, defender of the land and human rights, murdered on September 14, 2024; voices which also demand permanent justice for the communities of the Bajo Aguán as well as for the land itself.

Those of us who received the gift of being able to walk alongside Juan, even briefly, are witnesses to his profound commitment and his comprehensive and loving vision of a world in which all peoples live in dignity on a healthy and free land: land that does not have to bear the weight of extractivism, of corruption, of colonial and dehumanizing systems.

To Juan's *compañeras* and *compañeros*: Your pain is our pain. Your indignation is our indignation. And your unwavering determination to see that justice is done is also our determination and our mission. We mourn his absence with you, we share your dignified rage in the face of this crime and the power structures that made it possible and which tirelessly, desperately seek to ensure that it remains unpunished.

Therefore, on behalf of all people committed to truth and justice with dignity, we demand:

- That immediate, exhaustive, and impartial investigations be carried out to find the material and intellectual authors of the murder of Juan López, and that they be brought to justice.
- The immediate, definitive, and permanent cancellation of the Los Pinares/ECOTEK project, and reparation of the damage it has done to the Carlos Escaleras National Park and the Guapinol and San Pedro rivers, with the implementation of decree 18-2024.

- That all levels of public administration of the Municipality of Tocoa be investigated, including Mayor Adán Funez.

- That the United States Embassy in Honduras fulfill its obligation to accompany and enforce the universal human rights of the people of Honduras, and particularly the people of the Bajo Aguán.

- The immediate arrest and formal prosecution of all those named by the Special Environmental Prosecutor's Office in its request for indictment for severe damages to the National Park and to the San Pedro and Guapinol Rivers.

- The immediate presentation of the request for indictment for falsification of public documents that facilitated the imposition of three of the seven components of the Pinares-Ecotek mining-energy megaproject: 1) The ASP2 mining concession, 2) The Iron pelletizing plant and 3) The Petcoke-based thermoelectric plant.

They took him from us because they were afraid of him, afraid of his truth, afraid of his ability to communicate that truth and call people together to rise up and move with love for life.

But they can never take away his ideas, his words, or his presence.

Juan is here, Juan is with us, making himself present in our actions and our commitment.

He showed us the path very clearly, and we will walk it until the end.

***¡Juan López – PRESENTE!***