

Honduran authorities withhold evidence in Berta Cáceres trial



Tegucigalpa, August 25 (RHC)-- In Honduras, human rights groups are condemning the government of President Juan Orlando Hernández for failing to indict a single person for killing 31 people during protests challenging last November's election result. The protesters were killed during a brutal military crackdown amid reports of widespread fraud and vote rigging. Families of victims say they've been subjected to harassment and death threats after pressing for justice.

This comes as the daughter of internationally-renowned Honduran environmentalist Berta Cáceres -- who was assassinated in 2016 -- said prosecutors were withholding evidence in the murder trial of eight men charged with the crime, set for September 10th.

Bertha Zúniga Cáceres spoke to reporters, saying: "This [legal] process has been carried out in the midst of great irregularities in the investigation handled by the Public Prosecutor's Office, which has monopolized the entire investigation and has denied the status of victims in this process, refusing to inform us about what are the hypotheses handled and what is the information that supports the investigations. However, in parallel, we have always made the effort to build hypotheses and determine the individual responsibility of each person."

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