



**EU-LAT**  
Advocacy Network  
Red de Incidencia



Brussels, 6 March 2024

## **IN MEMORY OF BERTA CÁCERES, CIDSE AND EULAT URGE MEMBER STATES TO ADOPT THE EU DUE DILIGENCE DIRECTIVE**

### **JOINT STATEMENT**

Eight years after the murder of Berta Cáceres on 3 March 2016, the [EU-LAT Network](#) and [CIDSE](#) echo her family's call and urge EU Member States to say YES to a strong Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive.

From 2013 until the last days of her life, Berta Cáceres denounced the financial and logistical support given by European banks and companies to the Honduran company DESA, which was responsible for the destructive "Agua Zarca" hydroelectric project. This struggle cost her her life.

Berta Cáceres was a victim of the worst kind of corporate impunity. The struggle of the Lenca people, of Berta and her daughter, is just one example of the daily fight of indigenous and peasant communities to protect the land, water sources, forests, and our human families from the negative impacts of corporate activities. Nearly 2,000 Environmental Human Rights defenders have been killed in the last decade, with almost 70% of these killings taking place in Latin America.

In 2021, Berta's daughter, Bertha Zuñiga, [wrote a letter to the EU Commissioners on behalf of COPINH](#)<sup>1</sup>, calling for a robust and effective EU Directive to help prevent brutal corporate human rights abuses, such as those experienced by her family from happening again. Also in 2023, she sent an [open letter to EU decision makers](#) expressing great concerns that the draft Directive did not fully include the same due diligence obligations for the financial sector as for other companies.

In this crucial week for the adoption of the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, we recall the words of Bertha Zuñiga:

*"This is a great opportunity for the EU to show leadership  
in ensuring that companies act responsibly".*

**We call on EU Member States to vote in favour of a robust Directive that enables access to justice for victims.**

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<sup>1</sup> [COPINH](#) was founded by Berta with the aim of defending the territorial and fundamental rights of the Lenca people.