

URGENT ACTION

GARIFUNA COMMUNITY AT RISK IN CAYOS COCHINOS

Garifuna defenders of the Cayos Cochinos are facing an eviction order for protesting peacefully since September 14, 2026 against the filming of a TV reality show on their ancestral lands without their consent. 11 people are also facing criminal charges of usurpation. Legal harassment continues despite a 2025 ruling of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) that found Honduras responsible for violating the rights of the Garifuna community of Cayos Cochinos. We call on the Public Prosecutor's Office to request the lift of the eviction order, cease criminalization, and ensure Honduras comply with the IACHR ruling.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 98.26**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

General Attorney

Pablo Emilio Reyes Theodore

Lomas del Guijarro

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Email: fiscaliageneralhnd@gmail.com

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

CC: Honduran Embassy in the United States

1220 19th St NW #320,

Washington, D.C. 20036

Email: embassy@hondurasemb.org

Dear Attorney General,

I am concerned about the situation of **Garifuna human rights defenders of the Cayos Cochinos islands**, who face an eviction order from their own ancestral territory, and criminal charges for peacefully defending their rights. On September 16, dozens of policemen arrived by boat to carry out an order of "preventive eviction". Authorities indicated that 11 defenders were also facing usurpation charges.

Two days before, about 40 Garifuna defenders of the (OFRANEH) set up a camp in playa uva to protest against the filming of a new season of a reality TV show that unduly restricts their use of their own land and threatens their ancestral practices and livelihoods by preventing them to access fishing areas. They also denounce that these activities endanger the local ecosystems. Since then, policemen have arrived at the camp on several occasions to check alleged misconducts by protesters.

This eviction order is contrary to the ruling issued by the Inter American Court of Human rights in favor of the Garifuna community of Cayos Cochinos and international law standards on forced evictions. In 2025 that court determined that Honduras violated their right to free, prior, and informed consultation and ordered several measures to cease the violations and repair the damages already caused. These events add to the context of threats and intimidation directed against the Garifuna people for defending their rights over their ancestral territory.

I urge you to immediately request the lift of the eviction order, to cease criminalization against Garifuna defenders of Cayos Cochinos, and to take all necessary measures to fully comply with the ruling of the Interamerican Court in their favor that is binding for all Honduran authorities.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In September 2026, the Honduran Black Fraternal Organization (OFRANEH) publicly denounced the fact that the Garífuna community of Cayos Cochinos was unable to access its territory in the Caribbean archipelago because a reality TV program was being filmed there, despite a ruling by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in their favor. It is not the first time that the Garífuna communities' rights are affected by TV shows on their ancestral lands.

In its ruling on the Garífuna community of Cayos Cochinos issued on November 20, 2025, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruled that Honduras had implemented a series of measures, including the creation of the Cayos Cochinos Archipelago Marine Natural Monument and its respective management plans, and had authorized television filming without carrying out a process of prior, free, and informed consultation with the Garífuna Community of Cayos Cochinos. The Court also noted that this had affected the community's ability to practice and preserve its traditional way of life and to maintain its cultural and spiritual connection with the sea and the area's natural resources, including small-scale fishing which is the community's livelihood. The Court ordered several measures to prevent a recurrence and provide redress, including the duty to ensure the effective participation of the Garífuna Community of Cayos Cochinos in the various stages of the management plan for the Cayos Cochinos Archipelago Marine Natural Monument, and the obligation to carry out prior, free, and informed consultation to enable the eventual production of reality TV programs. The Court also ordered the State to investigate the complaints lodged between 2007 and 2024 regarding acts of violence perpetrated against members of the community.

OFRANEH has repeatedly denounced the fact that Honduras has failed to comply with the rulings handed down by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in favor of the Garífuna communities (the Garífuna Community of Punta Piedra, the Garífuna Community of Triunfo de la Cruz, the Garífuna Community of San Juan and the Community of Cayos Cochinos).

Decree 93-2021 introduced into Honduran law the practice of preventive and summary evictions without judicial oversight or due process safeguards, in breach of international human rights obligations. In August 2026, United Nations special procedures experts requested Honduran authorities to suspend around 1000 forced evictions that were pending, in the context of land disputes.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Spanish or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: November 4, 2026

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Garífuna Community at risk in Cayos Cochinos (they/them)