

We Shall Not Be Moved:

The Afro-Indigenous Garifuna Struggle to Protect Ancestral Lands in Post-Coup Honduras

Join us November 11th at 7pm, in UWM Union rm 280 to hear our special guest **Miriam Miranda**, general coordinator of the **National Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH)** and an important leader for over 20 years in the Garifuna community of indigenous and African descendant peoples. Miriam and OFRANEH are leaders in the widespread non-violent movement rejecting the 2009 military coup and the repression and violence of post-coup regimes. As Miriam can testify, women have played a particularly important role in leading the opposition movements in Honduras and in expressing the people's voice. They have also paid a high price, with attacks of police and private security forces focussing on them. This spring Miriam Miranda was shot in the stomach with a tear gas cannister which landed her in the hospital.



Miriam was a leader in the *1994 National Pilgrimage of peoples of indigenous and African heritage*: more than 3,000 persons from all of Honduras's native ethnic groups walked to the capital from far points in the country to demand their economic, social, and cultural rights. Miriam was the official representative of indigenous and African-Latino peoples of Honduras at the historic 1992 conference for "500 Years of Indigenous, Black, and Popular Resistance" in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

Miriam has testified before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of America States (OAS), most recently in 2009, seeking prosecution on behalf of assassinated Garifuna leaders and for Garifuna land rights struggles. OFRANEH has filed four cases at the Inter-American Commission.

Since the military coup in Honduras on June 28, 2009, the Garifuna community have suffered repression and violence, from both government and private commercial interests, as they have asserted their collective, community rights to ancestral lands. These rights are recognized by both Honduran and international law. An example of the violence: two Garifuna community radio stations were burned down by the Honduran military. They have been rebuilt, but remain under threat. The Garifuna community refuses to give in. As Miriam Miranda says, "We are in permanent resistance."

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