



The Promise Institute for Human Rights

UCLA School of Law

Reimagining Rights in the Americas Series

Challenges Concerning the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Defense of the Territories of Indigenous and Afrodescendent Peoples



José Francisco Calí Tzay

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Monday, April 5, 2021

9:00 – 10:15 AM PT

Register: ucla.in/3lEn5aS

(In Spanish with simultaneous English interpretation)



Bertha Zuñiga Cáceres

Coordinator, Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH)



Rony L. Castillo

Activist Garifuna scholar & President of the National Garifuna Education Council (CONEGA)

Moderated by: **Joseph Berra**, Promise Institute Human Rights in the Americas Project Director



COPINH

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Causa Berta Cáceres

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Challenges Concerning the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Defense of the Territories of Indigenous and Afrodescendent Peoples

Panelists:



José Francisco Calí Tzay is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. He is of Mayan Kaqchikel and Guatemalan origin. Before becoming Rapporteur, he served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Germany, concurrently to Poland and Ukraine. He was elected for 4 consecutive terms as a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and was elected as its Chair 2016–2018 and served as Vice-Chair on 3 separate occasions.

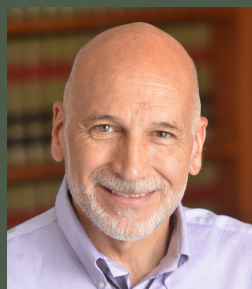


Bertha Zuñiga Cáceres is the daughter of the assassinated Indigenous leader Berta Cáceres. She was trained in the schools of popular communication, organizing and Indigenous rights advocacy of COPINH. In 2017 she was elected General Coordinator of COPINH, receiving the mantel of her mother from the organization. From this position, she continues the struggle of the Lenca people in defense of their rights and the rights of the environment from their Indigenous worldview.



Rony L. Castillo is an activist Garífuna scholar born in the community of Iriona Viejo, Iriona, Colón. His doctoral dissertation at UT Austin is on Territorial and Educational Autonomy, and the creation with OFRANEH of the Garifuna University as an autonomous model in the community of Vallecito, Colón. He is the current president of the National Garifuna Education Council. He was Coordinator of the Bilingual Education Program of the Secretary of Education in Honduras from 2012–2014.

Moderator:



Joseph Berra is Human Rights in the Americas Project Director with the Promise Institute for Human Rights at UCLA School of Law. Berra coordinates projects with organizational partners in the U.S. and Latin America to engage students in human rights advocacy and the Inter-American system for human rights. Current projects include collaboration with Indigenous organizations resisting extractivist industries in their territories and litigation at the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights. He leads the Reimagining Rights in the Americas initiative for Promise Institute.



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