

## **Overview**











- Context Honduras: «the neoliberal dream of some, the nightmare of many»
- Defending ESCR: «in memoriam of Berta Cáceres»
- Conflicts, mistrust & polarization: «difficult state society relations»
- Focus on dialogue, relations & process: «a response from a peacebuilding perspective»
- Conclusions: «towards a just and peaceful Honduras»

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### **Context Honduras:**

#### "The neoliberal dream of some, the nightmare of many"



- Neoliberal model with three caracteristics since the coup d'état in 2009
- Precarious human rights situation
  - <u>Political & civil rights</u>: insecurity, violence, militarization, surveillance, control
  - <u>ESCR</u>: poverty, lack of employment and income, inequality, discrimination (women, LGBTI)
- No protection of rights by state institutions:
  - weak institutions in the hands of the elites & criminal networks, corruption = the operating system (Chayes 2017).
  - Police and military = main perpetrators (84%)



# Defending ESCR: "in memoriam of Berta Cáceres"

- 3 civil society organizations of learning process:
  - COPINH: indigenous resistance to hidroelectric power
  - MUCA: land conflict between palm oil industry and farmers
  - Arcoiris: LGBTI community
- 120 defenders killed since 2009 (Global Witness 2017)
- ESCR defenders: «They challenge power where it hurts»
  - Production: Control over territory and land
  - Consumption: Control over society



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### Conflicts, Mistrust & Polarization:

"difficult state -society relations"



- Risk of exacerbating conflicts & polarization
- Mistrust & lack of dialogue
  - With government (e.g. Law on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders)
  - With international institutions (e.g. Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights)
  - Among civil society (e.g. strategies against youth violence)
- Missed opportunities to improve human rights situation

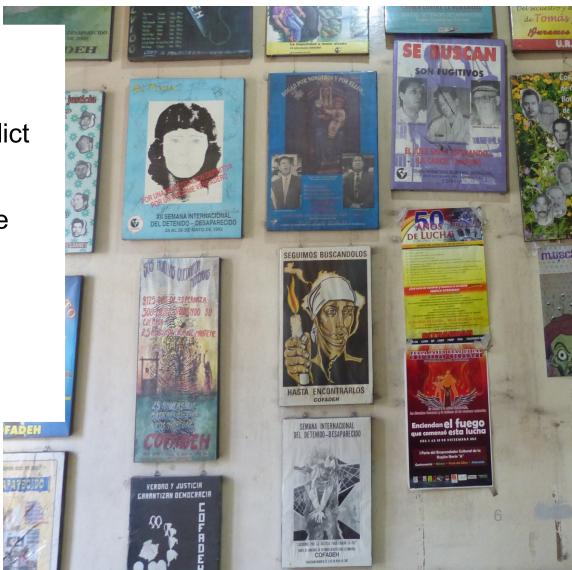
### Focus on dialogue, relations & process:

"a response from a peacebuilding perspective"

- Reframing for dialogue on both sides:
  - ESCR = basic needs (the onion)
  - HR violations = root causes and symptoms of conflict
- Improving relations within civil society
  - Leveling the playing field with knowledge exchange
  - Safe spaces & trust building measures
  - Interest-based solutions
- Protect and promote processes of social & political change



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### Conclusions:

"towards a just & peaceful Honduras"



