

via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 <b>Lic. Francisco Javier Ramirez Acuña</b> Minister of the Interior of Mexico	via fax: 011 52 81 83 44-91-99 <b>Lic. Daniel Garza Garza</b> President of Human Rights Commission of Nuevo León
via fax: 011 52 81 2020 1226 <b>Lic. José Natividad González</b> Governor of Nueva León	via email: <a href="mailto:ltrevino@nl.gob.mx">ltrevino@nl.gob.mx</a> <b>Lic. Luis Carlos Treviño Berchelmann</b> Attorney General of Nuevo León

April 24, 2007

Dear Sirs:

We are outraged at the brutal assassination of union organizer **Santiago Rafael Cruz** on April 8 in the office of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (**FLOC** - Foro Laboral del Obrero Campesino) in Monterrey, Nuevo León state. His hands and feet had been tied and he had been severely beaten on his head and face. Nothing had been stolen from the office.

We believe that this murder was a targeted political attack on the union for its work in protecting the human rights of Mexican migrants going to the US as seasonal farm workers. The assassination of Santiago Rafael Cruz came after more than two years of media attacks, deportation threats, robberies, and violent intimidation of the FLOC office and its staff. FLOC opened the office after winning a collective agreement to represent nearly 7,000 H2A "guest worker" farm workers traveling to the U.S. The FLOC agreement and a court case have helped eliminate bribes, extortion, and other corruption in the recruitment of these workers in Mexico, jeopardizing the lucrative interests of field recruiters.

We are also extremely concerned for the safety of **FLOC director Cástulo Benavides Rodríguez** and other staff members in Monterrey.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has granted FLOC's preventive measures petition. This instructs the Mexican government to "adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the life and physical security" of FLOC staff in Mexico and to keep the IACHR informed of the judicial process to bring Santiago's killers to justice. Beginning April 23, they have seven (7) days to implement these instructions.

We therefore **strongly urge** that you:

- conduct a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the murder of Santiago Rafael Cruz, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice
- act promptly for the complete implementation of the directives of IACHR to ensure the protection of the FLOC staff and office in Monterrey.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

cc: CADHAC ~ via fax: 011-52-81-8343-5058  
 Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana ~ via fax: 202 728 1698  
 Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5207-0091  
 William Duncan, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-5752  
 Lic. Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, President of Mexico ~ via fax: 011 52 55 52772376  
 Dr. Jose Luis Soberanes Fernandez, President of the National Human Rights Commission ~ via fax: 011 52 55 5681 7199  
 Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: (202)458-3992  
 U.S. Senators Brown and Voinovich ~ via email  
 U.S. Representatives Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA 90/07 Mexico

**The following people hereby urge that you take action on this matter as indicated in this letter:**