



InterReligious Task Force on Central America
3606 Bridge Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113
tel: 216.961.0003 fax: 216.961.0002 e-mail: irtf@igc.org

via fax: (202) 521-4051 Dr. Condoleezza Rice Secretary of State of the United States
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via fax: (202) 232-3763 Mr. Rene A. León Ambassador of El Salvador to the U.S.
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January 12, 2007

Dear Secretary Rice and Mr. Ambassador León:

We are extremely concerned that the murder of American citizen and Teamsters Union Representative Gilberto Soto on November 5, 2004 remains unsolved. On November 17, 2004 we wrote to then Secretary of State Colin Powell expressing our outrage at the assassination and urging an immediate investigation by the President of El Salvador with the assistance of US resources and personnel for monitoring this investigation.

We now call on you to demand that the government of El Salvador immediately reopen the investigation into Gilberto Soto's assassination. We also ask that you support the work of the Salvadoran Human Rights Ombudsman, Beatrice de Carrillo, who has been investigating the murder but has been met with constant resistance from the Salvadoran government. She has also received death threats for investigating the cover-up of Soto's assassination.

Adding to the international outcry over this case, on November 15, 2006, the International Labor Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations, released a report that condemns the Salvadoran government's handling of the case.

If we allow this murder to go unsolved, labor and human rights activists will never be safe in El Salvador. We request that you instruct the Salvadoran government to:

- conduct a fair, objective and transparent investigation into the murder of Gilberto Soto;
- take action to end attacks on and harassment of labor and human rights advocates in El Salvador;
- fully support and protect the office of the Human Rights Ombudsman.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

Copies: President Elias Antonio Saca ~ via fax: 011-503- 2-243-9930
Attorney General Lic. Félix Garrid Safie ~ via fax: 011 503 2249 8613
H. Douglas Barclay, U.S. Ambassador ~ via fax: 011-503-2-234-2001
Dra. Beatrice Alamanni de Carrillo, Human Rights Procurator ~ via fax: 011 503 2222 0655
Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: (202)458-3992
Florentín Meléndez, Salvadoran member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: (202)458-3992
Paul Degler, El Salvador Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202.647.2597

Jan 10, STITCH

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