

via fax: 011 502 2239 0090

Licenciado Oscar Berger Perdomo
President of the Republic of Guatemala

via fax: 011 502 2251 2218

Juan Luis Florido
Attorney General and Chief of Public Ministry of Guatemala

January 23, 2007

We are outraged at the killing of trade union leader **Pedro Zamora** on January 15, 2007 in the city of Puerto Quetzal. He was killed at 7:50 pm as he returned home in his pick-up truck from the local clinic with his two small children. Very close to his home five individuals in a car that had been waiting for him shot 100 bullets at his car, 20 of which hit him. He crashed his car into a wall and managed to cover his children with his body to protect them before a final shot to his face was fired at close range.

Pedro Zamora was the Secretary General of the Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Empresa Portuaria - Quetzal (STEPQ – Quetzal Dock Workers Union). Since being elected to the position in December 2005 he had been the victim of various acts of intimidation. From January to March 2006 he was regularly followed by vehicles, and unknown individuals visited his home to ask for his whereabouts. He reported having been followed every day during the five days before his assassination.

Just the week before, the Minister of Communications, Transport and Public Works sided with the union to reinstate nine workers who had been unjustly fired. The port's general manager, who was implicated in the police arrest of union leaders at the port last year, was angered by this decision.

We are also extremely concerned for the lives of the remaining four members of the Union's Executive Committee and their families: **Oscar Gianni González Donado, Lázaro René Reyes Mata, Max Alberto Estrada Linares** and **Eulogio Obispo Monzón Mérida**. On January 17, Oscar González and Lázaro Reyes received several anonymous phone calls, warning that they, their other colleagues and their families would be killed within the next nine days. A pick-up truck with tinted windows has been seen parked near Eulogio Monzón's house over the past few days.

Therefore, **we strongly urge you to**

- order a full and impartial investigation into the killing of Pedro Zamora and the death threats against his colleagues and bring those responsible to justice;
- guarantee the safety of Oscar González, Lázaro Reyes, Max Estrada and Eulogio Monzón, in strict accordance with their own wishes;
- remember that human rights defenders have the right to carry out their activities without any restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan-Szittai
Coordinator

Copies: Ambassador Jose Guillermo Castillo ~ via fax: 202 745 1908

Ambassador James Derham ~ via fax: 011-502-2334-8477

Courtney Turner, Guatemala Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-2597

Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: (202)458-3992 or 202.458.6215

Movimiento Nacional de Derechos Humanos, National Human Rights Movement ~ via fax: 011-502-2232-2651

Benjamin Davis, AFL-CIO Int'l Worker Solidarity Center for Mexico and Central America ~ via fax: 011 52 55 5601 8863

U.S. Senators Brown and Voinovich and U.S. Reps. Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA WARN 3/07 & AFL-CIO Solidarity Center_Guatemala

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