

via fax: 011 52 55 5277 2376

Sr. Felipe Calderón
President of Mexico

December 11, 2007

Dear Mr. President:

We are dismayed and outraged to learn of the release by Sonora State authorities on November 18 of Eduardo Rodríguez Cervantes, one of the alleged participants in the assassination of **Santiago Rafael Cruz**, an organizer for the **Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC – Foro Laboral del Obrero Campesino)** in Monterrey, Nuevo León State on April 8, 2007. We wrote to you on about this murder on April 24.

At 8 p.m. on November 17, the U.S. Border Patrol detained Cervantes when he tried to enter the United States by way of San Luis, Arizona, and handed him over to authorities in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, that same night. In compliance with the Agreement of Reciprocal Collaboration, the authorities of Sonora authorities notified Nuevo León authorities, but then they released him a few hours later. On November 20, the Office of the Attorney General of Nuevo León told the media that the suspect had been clearly identified by the Ministerial Police, who had him under surveillance and was ready capture him once the proper documentation was ready.

FLOC and their lawyers asked that the Special Prosecutor in charge of the investigations send a notice of collaboration to all Justice Departments in Mexico in order to aid the authorities of Nuevo León with the finding and capturing of Eduardo Rodríguez Cervantes. The Nuevo León government has continually evaded the questions of FLOC lawyers. The authorities announced that they had detained Jaime Martínez Amador, accusing him of the murder. However, there is evidence that his "confession" was obtained under torture. Jaime Martínez Amador named Eduardo Rodríguez Cervantes as one of the persons who participated in the assassination of Santiago Rafael Cruz.

The Nuevo León government has not considered investigating political motives surrounding the murder of Santiago Rafael, even though the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights issued a protective order for other FLOC staff on the basis of such evidence.

On the basis of the preceding information, we **again urge that you**

- exercise the federal government's right to take over the investigation of the vicious murder of Santiago Rafael Cruz as a human rights case;
- focus the investigation on political motives for the murder, particularly the corruption in the recruitment of Mexican migrant workers, in violation of Mexican national labor laws;
- direct the Mexican National Commission on Human Rights to investigate the case of torture of Jaime Martinez Amador in his "confession," which will also eliminate misleading and corrupt accusations that can confuse the investigation of Santiago's assassination;
- reinforce efforts to protect the personnel and members of FLOC in Mexico according, to the intention of the protective order issued by the Inter-American Commission Human Rights.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Brian J. Stefan-Szittai
Coordinator

cc:

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Michael Hale, FLOC, AFL-CIO ~ via fax (419) 243 5655x4
U.S. Senators Brown and Voinovich ~ via email
U.S. Representatives Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

FLOC_Mexico

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