

via Fax: 011 502 2239 0090 Álvaro Colom Caballeros President of the Republic of Guatemala	via Fax: 011 502 2251 2218011 or 502 2411 9124 or 502 2411 9326 Juan Luis Florido Attorney General and Chief of Public Ministry of Guatemala
via Fax: 011 502 2422 2518 ext. 19 Edgar Alfredo Rodríguez Minister of Labor of Guatemala	

May 23, 2008

Dear Sirs:

We are outraged at the murder on April 29 of **Carlos Enrique Cruz Hernández**, member of the Union of Izabal Banana Workers (SITRABI), while on his lunch break at the Chickasaw El Peligro Plantation, which is owned by DEL MONTE BANDEGUA S.A., a subsidiary of the multinational company Fresh Del Monte Produce, Inc.

Since the implementation of the Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) between Guatemala and the United States on July 1, 2006, six trade unionists have been murdered, as well as two family members of another unionist. According to a recent report from the AFL-CIO, the government of Guatemala has yet to conduct serious investigations into any of the murders or other human rights abuses, such as rape, against unionists and their family members.

On April 23, the AFL-CIO and six labor groups—including SITRABI—submitted a petition under the labor and dispute resolution provisions of DR-CAFTA “concerning the failure of the Government of Guatemala to effectively enforce its labor laws under the International Labor Organization’s Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.”

On 23 April, representatives of the Confederation of Trade Union Unity of Guatemala (CUSG) also met the Minister for the Interior to condemn the intimidation of Danilo Méndez, another member of SITRABI, by armed men.

Last October we wrote you about the Sep 23 2007 murder of another SITRABI leader, Marco Tulio Portela Ramírez. On March 25, 2008 we wrote to you about the March 2 killing of Miguel Angel Ramírez Enríquez, one of the founders of SITRABANSUR (Union of Banana Workers of the South). We are still awaiting results in the investigation of these murders.

We remind you of the commitment that President Colom made in January at the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) conference to do everything in his power to eradicate the violence against union activists and put an end to the impunity endemic in Guatemala.

We **strongly urge** that you

- Conduct an immediate and complete investigation into the murder of Carlos Enrique Cruz Hernández, make the results public and bring the perpetrators to justice;
- Ensure that DEL MONTE, BANDEGUA S.A. applies security measures on the plantations and homes of workers in Izabal and that they support efforts to bring justice to those affected by the security breaches
- Take all measures necessary to carry out Guatemalan laws that allow workers to freely join unions and bargain collectively without fearing for their lives and those of their families.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

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 Courtney Turner, Guatemala Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-2597
 Mohammad Abu-Ghazaleh, *Chairman and Chief Executive Officer*, Fresh Del Monte Produce, Inc ~ via fax
 José Antonio Yock, *Senior Vice President - Central America*, Del Monte Fresh Produce S.A. ~ via fax
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Latta, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

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