



InterReligious Task Force on Central America

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Lic. Félix Garrid Safie

Attorney General of El Salvador

August 15, 2008

Dear Attorney General Felix Garrid Safie:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are deeply distressed by the high number of politically motivated assassinations that have been happening in El Salvador, creating a climate of fear and threatening the 2009 municipal and legislative elections. Since 2006 Salvadoran community organizers have been subject to extensive political repression, including illegal arrests, disappearances, and the murder of at least 23 leaders of the social movement and FMLN party. The most recent include the following:

January 2008: Wilber Funes, Mayor of Alegría, Usulután Department, who planned to run for reelection as an FMLN member, was killed together with municipal employee Zulma Rivera.

April 2008: Security guard of FMLN deputy Gerson Martínez was shot to death in San Pablo Tacachico, La Libertad Department.

June 26, 2008: Angel Martinez Cerón, student activist and coordinator of the January 24 Revolutionary Socialist Student Bloc, was assassinated in the city of Santa Ana by a bullet to the head, after being shot eight times.

July 2, 2008: Holman Rivera, an employee of the FMLN's municipal government in Ilopango, San Salvador Department, was killed together with his nephew.

July 24, 2008: 27 year-old Rafaela Hernández Delgado, whose husband is an FMLN member of the municipal government of San Pablo Tacachico, La Libertad Department, was shot dead in a bus.

Such murders are reminiscent of paramilitary practices that occurred during the armed conflict in El Salvador. The impunity of the cases of Funes and Martínez Cerón, among others, does not contribute to the process of democratic stability desired by the people of El Salvador. We urge you to fully investigate these cases so that El Salvador can have a transparent, democratic process that is free of political repression and violence. In this pre-electoral year, it is critical that the Salvadoran government demonstrate a commitment to defend the rights of all Salvadorans who seek to express themselves politically.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: Charles L. Glazer, U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador ~ fax: 011-503-2501-2154
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US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
US Representatives Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Regula, Ryan, Sutton 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: