

via fax: 011-503-2243-7857/9930 Elias Antonio Saca President of El Salvador	via fax: 011-503-2243-9930/7857 Lic. Félix Garrid Safie Attorney General of El Salvador
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January 25, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We are outraged at the assassination of 26 year-old **Maximino Rodríguez** and his father, 63 year-old **Delfo de Jesús Rodríguez**, on January 9 in the town of Las Minitas, La Union Department. Both were activists in the FMLN party. They were attacked by a group of six or seven heavily armed men dressed to resemble special unit police officers. The style of the assassinations, in which the masked men arrived in a vehicle and unloaded their weapons indiscriminately into the Rodríguez house, recalls the death squad killings of the 1980s. At least two suspects have been detained by the police but no charges have been filed.

These killings, just prior to the January 18 municipal and legislative elections, are an escalation of the political violence that has been occurring for at least the past year, ranging from street attacks to uninvestigated murders of more than a half dozen FMLN and social movement leaders in 2008. ARENA's victorious mayoral candidate for the mayorship of San Salvador, Norman Quijano, had publicly admitted that his campaigners were armed and should be "considered dangerous." In addition, there has been an on-going campaign of media misinformation that includes a series of false advertisements attempting to frighten Salvadoran voters with threats of U.S retaliation if there is an FMLN victory in the presidential election. They claim that there would be an end to remittances sent home from Salvadorans living in the U.S. and that an FMLN victory would threaten Temporary Protective Status (TPS), which allows over 200,000 Salvadorans to remain legally in the U.S. These claims are totally false.

Continued impunity for the perpetrators of the political violence is a severe setback for the 1992 Peace Accords. We therefore **strongly urge** that you

- Carry out a full investigation into the murders of Maximino Rodríguez and Delfo de Jesús Rodríguez, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice.
- End the fear-based threats of US retaliation relating to the upcoming presidential election

Sincerely,

Brian Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

Copies: Charles L. Glazer, U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador ~ fax: 011-503-2501-2154
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René Figueroa, Minister of the Interior and Governance ~ fax: 011 503 2281 5959
Florentín Meléndez, El Salvador member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: (202)458-3992
US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, Latta, LaTourette, Ryan, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

CISPES1/12/09

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