

via fax: 011 502 2411 Lic. Álvaro Colom President of the Republic of Guatemala	Via fax: 011 502 2413 8658 Sr. Raúl Antonio Velásquez Ramos Minister of the Interior of Guatemala
Via fax: 011 502 2411 9124 Lic. José Amílcar Velásquez Zárate Attorney General and Head of Public Prosecutor's Office of Guatemala	

February 15, 2010

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Taskforce on Central America, are saddened and outraged by the attack and murder on January 13 of **Evelinda Ramirez Reyes**, a 26-year old mother of a five-year old boy and a member of the Resistance Front in Defense of the Natural Resources and Indigenous Peoples Rights (FRENA) and the Committee for Peasant Unity (CUC). She and three others from the San Marcos branch of FRENA were returning home from a series of meetings in Guatemala City aimed at exposing the excessive billing and other illegal actions of DEOCSA (Distribuidora de Electricidad de Occidente). DOCSA is one of two subsidiaries of the Spanish transnational corporation Union Fenosa that has been operating in Guatemala since the privatization of the country's electricity distribution in 1998.

Two young men driving a white car ambushed and fired shots at the car with the FRENA members. The fact that there was no theft involved in their car rules out the possibility of a random attack; it points to an attack targeted at the FRENA leaders. FRENA has received threats for their work of exposing abuse and for proposing the creation of a municipal company to provide public electricity accessible to all. In July 2009 Victor Galvez, the leader of FRENA in Malactán, was brutally attacked. In October he was fatally shot thirty times in view of many passers-by.

In light of these murders and intimidations, we **urgently request** you to:

- conduct an immediate and thorough investigation into the murders of Evelinda Ramírez Reyes and Victor Galvez and Immediately issue arrest warrants for those responsible;
- take immediate action to ensure the security of all FRENA members;
- listen to the demands against DEOCSA-Unión Fenosa and find peaceful solutions to the problem.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Ing. Carlos Ivan Meany Valerio, Guatemalan Minister of Energy and Mines ~ via fax: 011-502-2476-2007
 Abraham Valenzuela González, Guatemalan Minister of National Defense ~ via fax: 011-502-2414-7101
 Francisco Villagran de Leon, Guatemalan Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202-745-1908
 Stephen McFarland, US Ambassador to Guatemala ~ via fax: 011-502-2334-8477
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ via fax: 202-458-3650
 Skye Justice, Guatemala Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-2597
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
 US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

ITUC 01/15/10-Guatemala

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