

via fax: 011 504 2221 5667
Sr. Luis Alberto Rubi
 Attorney General of Honduras

via fax: 011 504 2220 1756
Sr. Pompeyo Bonilla
 Minister of Interior and Security of Honduras

October 23, 2011

Dear Sirs:

We are outraged at the recent campesino killings and other serious acts of repression listed below that have occurred since the Xatruch II (joint military-police) Operation arrived in the Bajo Aguan Region of Colon Dept.

- On August 21, **Arnoldo Portillo**, a member of the 5 de Enero Empresa Cooperativa, was found murdered by machete strikes and gunfire.
- On August 21, **Pedro Salgado**, the President of the 5 de Enero Cooperativa, and his wife **Irene Licona**, were murdered by machete strikes and gunfire.
- On September 2, in the exit from the Los Maraños community, **Olvin David González Godoy**, a member of the Empresa Campesina 21 de junio, was shot and killed by several gunmen.
- On September 19, during an attack on the Rigores community, **Bernabe Cruz**, 16-year-old son of the president of the Movimiento Campesino de Rigores (MCR), was taken by Xatruch forces; in detention, his captors beat him, poured gasoline on him and threatened to set him on fire;
- On September 29, **German Castro**, President of the Prieta cooperative, and his wife, **Miriam Enelda Fiallo**, were traveling in a truck when attacked with automatic gunfire. Miriam Enelda Fiallo was killed and German is in critical condition.
- On October 2, **Carlos Humberto Martínez**, a member of the La Lempira cooperative and the Movimiento Unificado Campesino del Aguan (MUCA), was shot to death near his fields at approximately 5 am.
- On October 4, **Marco Tulio Paredes**, a leader of the MUCA from the community of Rigores, was surrounded by Xatruch troops who attempted to kidnap and threatened to kill him. On September 15, Paredes had been cited in a *New York Times* article advocating land reform.
- On October 5, **Alfredo Matamoros**, treasurer of the La Aurora cooperative, and **Jarel Sánchez**, both members of the MUCA, were gravely wounded when their car was shot at from gunmen inside a palm plantation the men's car was passing.
- On October 6, **Walter Nelín Sabillon Yanes** of Rigores community, reported being detained and tortured with electric shocks and a plastic bag placed over his head to induce near suffocation by Xatruch forces.
- On October 11, security guards for Dinant palm oil (owned by Miguel Facusee) opened fire on campesinos working on the La Aurora cooperative, instantly killing campesino **Santos Serfino Zelaya**. In another area of the farm, guards opened fire on 15 women, who sought refuge in the trees.

We demand that you immediately

- order the Xatruch II Operation to stop terrorizing campesinos in the the Bajo Aguan region;
- order private companies not to use force against campesinos who are unarmed and working the land;
- order an open and thorough investigation into the atrocities against the campesinos listed above, make the results public, and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

CC: COFADEH:Comite de Familiares de Detenidos y Desaparecidos en Honduras ~ via fax 011 504 2220 5280
 Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Amabassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751
 Lisa Kubiske, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax
 Nathan Anderson, Attache for Human Rights and Labor, US Embassy to Honduras ~ via email
 Benjamin Gadan, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax 202.647.2597
 Christopher Johnson, Diplomacy Officer for Central America, US State Dept. ~ via email
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202 458.3992
 US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

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