

via fax: 011 504 2221 5667 Excmo. Sr. Luis Alberto Rubí Attorney General of the Republic of Honduras	via email Estimada Sra. Ana Pineda Minister for Justice and Human Rights of Honduras
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July 12, 2012

Dear Sirs and Madam:

We are outraged at the murder of three more farmers in the Lower Aguán region of Colon Department:

- **Gregorio Chávez**, age 69, was disappeared July 2 by security guards of private landowner Miguel Facussé and found on July 6, tortured and murdered, on Facussé's farm Paso Aguán;
- **Jacobo Erazo Lopez**, age 30, member of United Campesino Movement of Aguán-Right Bank (MUCA-MD) and of the campesino cooperative La Tranvio of the settlement of La Confianza, whose murdered body was found in Quebrada de Arena, Colon Department on July 7;
- **José Luis Dubón Díaz** of MUCA was murdered July 7 by three men waiting for him when he went to a cafeteria for cigarettes while meeting in El Progreso with Cesar Ham, Director of the National Agrarian Institute.

These assassinations are part of a pattern of human rights violations that have been occurring in the Lower Aguán region since 2010 because of unresolved disputes between peasant farming communities and private landowners. Since April 2010, we have written at least six letters to Honduran officials regarding this violence being waged against small farmers in the Lower Aguán (cf our most recent letter March 1, 2012).

The conflict in the Lower Aguán will be resolved only by the authorization of lands for the campesinos, not by the presence of police and military. Therefore, we **strongly urge** you to

- investigate and prosecute all the material and intellectual authors of the crimes and other serious human rights violations committed in the Lower Aguán;
- immediately end the repression and violence against the campesino movement, particularly the forced evictions, and adopt effective methods to offer protection to persons at risk, in strict accordance with their wishes;
- regulate the functioning of the private security business by requiring them to fully respect the human rights of the population and cancelling their permission to operate if they do not comply;
- comply with the legal decisions and political agreements related to the agrarian conflicts, and implement the necessary measures to achieve a just and sustainable solution to the problem of land tenancy, in agreement with the obligations assumed by the State of Honduras for the Right to Alimentation.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: Observatorio Permanente Internacional de Derechos Humanos en el Aguán ~ via email
 Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Amabassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751
 Lisa Kubiske, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax 011 504 2236 9037
 Nathan Anderson, Attache for Human Rights and Labor, US Embassy to Honduras ~ via email
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 Christopher Johnson, Diplomacy Officer for Central America, US State Dept. ~ via email
 Tracy Robinson, Rapporteur for Honduras, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202 458.3992
 US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email
 US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

July 7_HSN_Honduras

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