



InterReligious Task Force on Central America  
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Mr. Alain Beida, CEO  
Alcoa, Inc.  
390 Park Ave  
New York, NY 10022  
via fax: 412-553-449

July 12, 2007

Dear Mr. Belda:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force on Central America, are outraged at your recent firing of more than 50 leaders and organizers of the SITAFILH union at your auto parts plant in the El Porvenir Free Trade Zone in El Progreso, Honduras. These firings include the following:

- June 8: Lorna Redell Jackson García, one of the key union leaders, fired at a meeting with the assistant human resource manager.
- June 12: workers from the night shift led out of the factory by armed security guards and left standing on the highway in front of the free trade zone.
- June 13 and June 15: a total of 46 more workers fired.

The workers were told that the firings were due to the company's need to "cut personnel." It appears, however, that Alcoa wants to bust the workers' new union. Alcoa management has threatened the workers, saying if they continue to organize and make demands the factory will close and relocate to Nicaragua where "labor is cheaper and workers don't make so many demands or cause problems."

The union is attempting to address many labor violations at the plant, including

- long, exhausting hours arbitrarily set and changed by management;
- shouting at workers and other humiliation;
- security guards threatening workers;
- few and dirty bathrooms;
- sexual harassment of women;
- failure to pay a \$200 bonus Alcoa promised to employees who volunteered 60 hours in its "Bravo Project" service programs.

The firing of the auto workers is a violation of Honduran labor law as well as the U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement. We therefore **strongly urge that you**

- immediately reinstate the fired unionists;
- comply with Honduran law, which gives the right to organize and form a union

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Coordinator

cc: Leonidas Rosa Bautista, Attorney General of Honduras ~ via fax  
Ambassador Roberto Flores Bermudez, Embassy of Honduras in the US ~ via fax  
Marcos Mandojana, Desk Officer for Honduras, US State Department ~ via fax  
Ambassador Charles A. Ford, US Embassy in Honduras ~ via fax  
Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of American States ~ via fax  
U.S. Senators Brown and Voinovich ~ via email  
U.S. Representatives Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

NLC Honduras 6/21/07

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