

via fax: 011 - 504 235 7700 <b>José Manuel Zelaya Rosales</b> President of the Honduras Republic	via fax: 011 504 220 4352 <b>Alvaro Romero Salgado</b> Public Security Minister
via fax: 011 504 221 5667 <b>Leonidas Rosa Bautista</b> Attorney General	via fax: 011 504 232-6894 <b>Dr. Ramón Custodio López</b> National Human Rights Commission

May 22, 2008

Dear Sirs:

We are shocked and outraged at the brutal assassination on April 23 of **Rosa Altagracia Fuentes**, the General Secretary of the Workers' Confederation of Honduras (CTH), CTH Treasurer **Virginia García de Sánchez** and driver **Juan Bautista Gálvez**. The car in which they were traveling was pulled over and six armed men opened fire at short range. Altagracia Fuentes was shot sixteen times. She had received death threats because of her efforts to organize workers in the area around San Pedro Sula. Police have ruled out robbery because no attempt was made to steal the victims' wallets or other personal effects.

These murders occurred in an area that is home to many export garment factories where workers routinely face harassment or dismissal when they attempt to organize. When the U.S. Congress approved CAFTA, the Central America Free Trade Agreement, many people were concerned about its impact on the protection of worker rights. This seems like an important test case.

**We strongly urge that you**

- Conduct a prompt and full inquiry into the deaths of Altagracia Fuentes, Virginia García de Sánchez and Juan Bautista Gálvez, make the results public and bring the perpetrators to justice.
- Ensure that the fundamental International Labor Organization (ILO) Conventions ratified by Honduras are respected.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

Copies: Ambassador Roberto Flores Bermudez, Embassy of Honduras in Washington, DC~ via fax  
 Marcos Mandojana, Desk Officer for Honduras, US State Department ~ via fax  
 Ambassador Charles A. Ford, US Embassy in Tegucigalpa ~ via fax  
 Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax  
 USLEAP, labor rights organization ~ via fax  
 U.S. Senators Brown and Voinovich ~ via email  
 U.S. Representatives Latta, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

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