

via fax: 011 504 237 9070  
**Coronel Jorge Alberto Rodas Gamero**  
Minister of Security of Honduras

via fax: 011 504 221 5667  
**Licdo. Leonidas Rosa Bautista**  
Attorney General of Honduras

November 3, 2008

Dear Sirs:

We are gravely concerned for the safety of members of the motor vehicle workers' trade union SITRAFL: Lorna Redell Jackson (President), Juana Leticia Maldonaldo Gutierrez (Secretary) and other members of the SITRAFL Executive Committee. Lorna Jackson and Juana Maldonaldo have been shot at and threatened with death; other members of the SITRAFL Executive Committee have received threatening phone calls. All of them have been in hiding.

Since July 2008, all six of the Executive Committee have received threatening phone calls, text messages and direct confrontations.

July 18: Lorna Jackson and her SITRAFL colleagues were waiting outside a television station for an interview. Two men armed with pistols got out of a white pickup truck without number plates. The men asked if they were "the people from the trade union" and said they had been hired to kill them but would desist if offered more money. The men then drove off.

September 11: Lorna Jackson and Juana Maldonaldo were shopping in El Progreso, El Yoro Department, when they noticed two men following them on a motorcycle. One of them shot at them and rode away.

October 21: Lorna Jackson received a call to her mobile phone from a man who said, "Where are you, old woman? Where are you hiding? . . . we'll find you."

SITRAFL was organized to combat violations of labor rights at the AFL Honduras factory, which makes motor vehicle parts and accessories. AFL recognized the trade union, but SITRAFL believes that AFL management discriminated against it. All its members were fired in June 2007. Six months later, AFL reinstated Lorna Jackson and a number of her colleagues. On August 22, 2008, AFL closed their operations in Honduras. SITRAFL believe they are being targeted because of their work denouncing violations of labor rights.

We remind you that human rights defenders, including trade union leaders, have the right to carry out their activities without any restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

We therefore **strongly urge** you to

- order a swift, impartial and full investigation into the September 11 attack on Lorna Redell Jackson García and Juana Leticia Maldonaldo, and into the telephone death threats made to all members of the SITRAFL Executive Committee, and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Coordinator

copies: Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras (COFADEH) ~ via mail  
Roberto Flores Bermudez, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 1 202 966 9751  
Hugo Llorens, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via fax 011.504.236.9037  
Marcos Mandojana, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax : 202-647-2597  
José Manuel Zelaya Rosales, President of the Honduras Republic ~ via fax  
Paolo Carozza, US Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 1.202.458-3992/8215  
US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Regula, 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:**