

Excmo. Sr. Juan Orlando Hernández
 Presidente de la República
 Casa Presidencial
 Boulevard Juan Pablo Segundo
 Palacio José Cecilio del Valle
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras
 fax: 011 504 239 3298

February 25, 2014

Dear Sirs:

We are outraged at the death on January 29 of **Victor Manuel Crespo Puerto** following an attack on him and other family members by an armed assailant who ran them down in a stolen car. He is the father of Victor Crespo, General Secretary of the General Union of Dock Workers (SGTM, Sindicato General de Trabajadores del Muelle), a union affiliated with the International Transport Workers Federation, in Puerto Cortés in Cortés Department.

On September 14, 2013 at 6:50am, three armed assailants tried to force their way into Victor Crespo's home. They were unsuccessful because of the number of neighboring witnesses they had awakened. They left shouting that they'd be back in eight hours "to finish the job" and that Crespo should "stop making noise organizing dock workers."

The incident followed months of death threats telling Victor Crespo to stop seeking a collective contract from International Container Terminal Services (ICTSI), which won a concession to operate the port in February 2013. The union made lawful requests for a collective bargaining agreement at the port and the recognition that benefits required by law had not been paid. When the SGTM presented legal cases to press for its members' rights, the death threats immediately resumed.

Since no government protection was provided to Victor Crespo following the September 2013 attack, ITF moved Victor Crespo to a safe place outside the country, alerted the police, the president of Honduras, the International Labor Organization (ILO).

We **strongly urge** that you

- find the perpetrators of the murder of Victor Manuel Crespo Puerto;
- promptly investigate attacks against union members; and
- negotiate a collective bargaining contract with SGTM.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Co-Coordinator

copies: Jorge Ramon Hernandez Alcerro, Honduran Ambassador to the US ~ via fax 202 966 9751
 Lisa Kubiske, US Ambassador to Honduras ~ via email RanzinoGf@state.gov
 Kelsey Cambronne, Honduras Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax 202.647.2597
 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, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

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