

URGENT ACTION

TRADE UNIONIST KILLED IN GUATEMALA

Trade unionist, Byron Arreaga, was shot dead in Quetzaltenango, north-western Guatemala, on 13 September. It is believed that he was targeted due to his trade union activities. Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of his fellow trade unionists.

On 13 September, **Byron Arreaga** left his house to drive to work. As he left his house, two unknown individuals shot him before he could reach his car. Byron Arreaga received two shots in his stomach and two in his head and died as a result of the attack.

Byron Arreaga was an administrative worker and a member of his office's trade union, the Sindicato de Trabajadores Administrativos del Segundo Registro de la Propiedad (Trade Union of Administrative Workers for the Second Property Registrar, SITRASEREPRO). The trade union was founded in February 2010. It has campaigned against corruption including a three week strike during August 2011 which led to the dismissal of the director.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Call for an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the killing of Byron Arreaga, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- Urge the authorities take immediate steps to provide all necessary protection to the members of SITRASEREPRO in accordance with their wishes;
- Remind the authorities 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.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 OCTOBER 2011:

Fiscal General

Claudia Paz y Paz Bailey

Fiscal General de la República

Ministerio Público

15ª Avenida 15-16, Zona 1, Barrio Gerona

Ciudad de Guatemala,

GUATEMALA

Fax: +502 2411 9124

Salutation: Estimada Sra. Fiscal General

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Carlos Menocal

Ministro de Gobernación

6ª Avenida 13-71, Zona 1,

Ciudad de Guatemala,

GUATEMALA

Fax: +502 2413 8658

Salutation: Dear Minister/

Estimado Sr.Ministro

And copies to:

UDEFEGUA – Unidad de protección a defensores y defensoras de derechos humanos

1 Calle 7-45 zona 1, Oficina 2-b,

Ciudad de Guatemala

GUATEMALA

E-mail: udefegua@yahoo.com

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Trade unionists in Guatemala face dangerous conditions due to their campaigns for labour rights.

Idar Joel Hernandez Godoy, a finance secretary in the Izabal banana workers' union Sindicato de Trabajadores de las Bananeras de Izabal (Trade Union of Banana Workers, SITRABI), was shot several times by unknown assailants on a motorcycle on 26 May. Amnesty International called for a thorough and impartial investigation into the killing. For more information, please visit <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/guatemala-urged-investigated-trade-unionist%E2%80%99s-killing-2011-05-27>

Mateo López, a trade unionist, was shot on 28 October 2010 in Catarina, San Marcos province, north-western Guatemala. Amnesty International issued an urgent action on his behalf in November 2010. For more information, please visit <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR34/010/2010/en>

Name: Byron Arreaga

Gender m/f: m

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