

Press Statement

April 19, 2007

Baldemar Velasquez

This event comes as one of the most difficult of my career. Nothing can be said and done to bring back our friend Santiago. What is left are the memories and common cause for which we struggled, justice for migrant workers and righteousness for our country. Righteousness as our country struggles to find a solution to immigration, labor market needs and the treatment of human beings.

Last night, a phone call from our attorneys in Mexico, Alejandra Archieta and Carlos Carim, I received the first report of their meeting concerning the investigation by the Nuevo Leon state police. We are dismayed by the lack of progress as they have come up with no leads, no motives despite more than a week of closed access to our office and contents. They have not informed us if they have even questioned those who have previously demonstrated hostility and animosity against us and un-professional statements by spokespersons to the San Antonio Express conjecturing that it probably was an inter-union or a feud between unions. This is utterly absurd, as we don't have a lot of competition for this work.

We continue to offer our open and complete collaboration with the investigation and we encourage the Governor of Nuevo Leon and his Attorney General to exhort the investigation for a fair, thorough and expeditious effort.

We thank everyone for the outpouring of support from thousands who have already contacted the Nuevo Leon Governor, who have sent messages of condolences, contributed to the Santiago Tragedy Fund and encouragement to continue our fight against injustice and corruption. Messages from Europe to South America, it is encouraging that there is a commonality among people of good will for hopes of a peaceful way for all to live on this planet. It is encouraging that there is a sense that the majority of people on earth have a sense of fair play and justice for all.