

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 18, 2007

Mr. Santiago A. Canton
Executive Secretary
Ariel Dulitzky
Assistant Executive Secretary
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
1889 F Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

Via Facsimile (202) 458-3992

Dear Secretary Canton and Assistant Secretary Dulitzky:

We understand your office has received a Preventative Measures Petition, filed April 12, 2007, seeking protective measures for staff members of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) in Mexico. We write to urge you to grant the petition.


As you know, a FLOC organizer, Santiago Rafeal Cruz, was found bound, beaten, and murdered in his FLOC office in Monterrey, Mexico, on April 9, 2007. FLOC represents Mexican workers who work in North Carolina under a U.S. guest worker program. Its Monterrey office assists those workers with enforcing their rights and freedom of association. FLOC has indicated it believes that Mr. Cruz's murder is related to those efforts and that the rest of its staff in Mexico remains in grave danger.

We share FLOC's urgent and serious concern for the continued safety of its staff in Mexico.


This murder requires a timely and thorough investigation. We urge you to ensure that such an investigation is conducted. And, of even more immediate concern, we urge you to grant the petition to ensure that the authorities in Mexico take measures necessary to protect the lives and well-being of FLOC staff members.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,


GEORGE MILLER
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor


MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress


JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress