

## Update on the Assassination of Santiago Cruz

October 12 2008



Leonel Rivero, a leading human rights lawyer in Mexico who represents FLOC and the family of Santiago Rafael Cruz, explains Santiago's case to the social activists at the 2nd Continental Congress in Mexico City in April 2008.

FLOC supporters remember that last year on the day after Easter, FLOC lost Santiago Rafael, an organizer who was viciously tortured and murdered in the union's offices in Monterrey, Mexico. Santiago's work was to help farmworkers going to work in the U.S. and to investigate and resolve problems with abuses in the recruiting systems. In honor of Santiago's sacrifice and commitment to justice, the FLOC office in Mexico has been renamed the Santiago Rafael Cruz Justice Center. Well over a year after the assassination of Santiago Rafael, the case is still unresolved!

Three men and a woman are thought to have been involved in the crime. One man has been caught and has been sentenced to 26 years in prison. The other three are fugitives. One of them, a man, was caught by the US Border Patrol trying to cross the border into Arizona last November and was returned to Mexico, only to be inexplicably released by Mexican authorities a few hours later!

Leonel Rivero, one of Mexico's leading Human Rights lawyers, represents FLOC and Santiago's family in this case, with both Mexican authorities and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. He has consistently pressed the government of Nuevo Leon on their failure to pursue the investigation of Santiago's assassination.

In September, Lic. Rivero made a trip to Ohio and North Carolina to continue the FLOC investigation into the assassination with Santiago's contacts in the U.S. While in the country, he also presented talks on Human Rights at several universities.

For more information on the current status of Santiago's case, see:

- [FLOC slaying probe moves to Toledo](#) (PDF)
- [Mexico's inquiry faulted](#) (PDF)
- [Entrevista a Leonel Rivero Rodríguez](#) (PDF, Spanish)

**ACTION:** Remember Santiago!

Please **write Mexican President Felipe Calderón** to call for an open and thorough investigation of the assassination of Santiago and for the guaranteed safety of FLOC staff and members in Mexico.

For more information and a sample letter to President Calderón, see the [FLOC website](#).

Santiago Rafael Cruz, **PRESENTE!**