

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
April 3, 2007

S.E. Óscar Berger Perdomo
Presidente de la República de Guatemala
6a. Avenida "A" 4-41, Zona 1
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

Via Fax +502 2253 0801
cc: Interior Ministry, Fax +502 2413-8658

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing with grave concerns regarding the recent murder of Guatemalan trade union leader Pedro Zamora. As you know, Mr. Zamora was General Secretary of the Guatemalan STEPQ dock workers union at the Port of Quetzal and member of the International Transport Union. According to reports, on January 15, 2007, he was shot twenty times in front of his two children while picking them up from a hospital appointment. His three-year-old son was injured during the shooting.

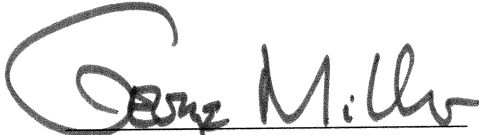
At the time, Mr. Zamora was in the process of negotiating a contract for workers at the Port of Quetzal. We have been told that Mr. Zamora's colleagues with the trade union recently have received ominous death threats, including threats against their families. We do recognize and commend the recent positive development, the February 12, 2007 reinstatement of nine union activists who had been dismissed by the Port Authority. Nonetheless, we note that the reinstatements only took place after an international campaign, including international delegations and many weeks of appeals to your Government and the Port of Quetzal authorities.

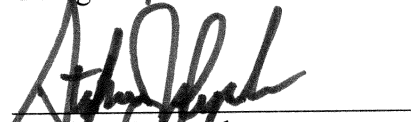
Mr. Zamora's murder and the continued death threats are a tragic and alarming turn of events, particularly in light of these leaders' trade union work. If there is any connection between the murder and Mr. Zamora's efforts on behalf of workers, these events not only steal a father's life from his children, but also dramatically undermine the fundamental, internationally-recognized human rights of workers to organize and collectively bargain, a key element to any free and democratic society. We are sure you agree that such violent and reprehensible human rights violations cannot be tolerated under any circumstances.

We are writing to ask that you ensure both the safety of Mr. Zamora's colleagues and the pursuit of a serious and thorough investigation into both his murder and the continued intimidation of the trade union leaders. This is particularly important as the union leadership returns to work and to the bargaining table to negotiate a fair collective bargaining agreement. We ask that you express your commitment to core labor standards, and your expectation for good faith negotiations to the

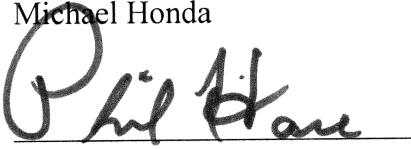
Port of Quetzal management and local authorities as soon as possible. As we see far too clearly in the case of Pedro Zamora, these issues can be a matter of life and death.

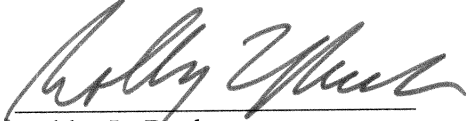
Sincerely,

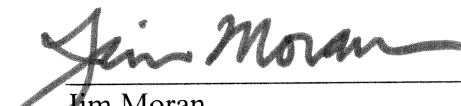

George Miller

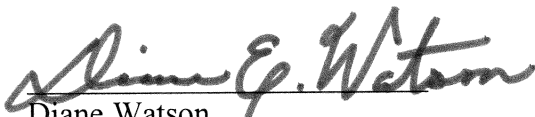

Stephen F. Lynch


Michael Honda

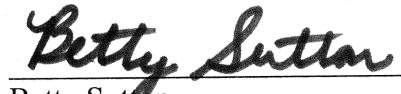

Phil Hare

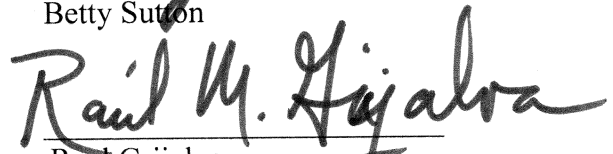

Bobby L. Rush

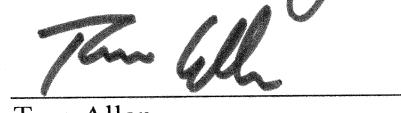

Jim Moran

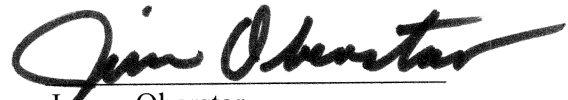

Diane Watson


Pete Stark

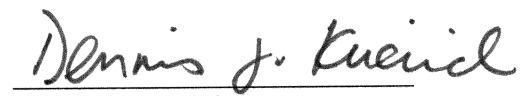

Betty Sutton


Raul Grijalva


Tom Allen


James Oberstar


Earl Blumenauer


Dennis Kucinich