

5 December 2006

Re: Killing of human rights defender Dionisio Díaz García, and fear for the safety of other staff members of the Association for a more Just Society (ASJ)

Front Line is deeply concerned by reports received regarding the killing of **Dionisio Díaz García**, in the city of Tegucigalpa, on 4 December 2006. Dionisio Díaz García was a member of the *Asociación para una Sociedad más Justa*, Association for a more Just Society (ASJ). ASJ is a non-governmental organisation which works to promote economic, social and cultural rights in Tegucigalpa. On 4 October 2006, Front Line wrote to you, expressing concern for the safety of ASJ staff members, including that of Dionisio Díaz García. Front Line calls again for the effective protection of all ASJ staff members, in particular that of **Carlos Hernandez, Dina Meetabel Meza Elvir, Robert Marín** and **Rosa Morazán**.

According to information received, Dionisio Díaz García was gunned down by two men travelling by motorbike, in Tegucigalpa city, on 4 December 2006. On 27 November 2006, an ASJ staff member received an anonymous phone call informing him that Dionisio Díaz García's life was in danger.

Dionisio Díaz García was legal representative for twelve security guards unfairly dismissed from the *Empresa de Seguridad Privada Delta Security*, Delta Private Security Firm, and its sister company *Seguridad Técnica de Honduras*, Technical Security Honduras (SETECH). He also handled five cases of alleged labour rights violations perpetrated by Security Systems of Honduras (Inter-Com), and offered legal support to employees exploited by fast-food chains in Tegucigalpa. Reports claim that Dionisio Díaz García was the victim of ongoing threats via telephone, threatening messages were also posted on the ASJ e-magazine, and voicemail messages left on mobile phones belonging to ASJ staff members suggested that his life was in danger.

On 29 November 2006, Dionisio Díaz García backed a staged protest by security guards who had been dismissed from Inter-Com Security, outside the company headquarters in Tegucigalpa. On 30 November 2006, he accompanied an employment inspector to the SETECH offices to verify the unfair dismissal of an employee.

Front Line is of the opinion that the killing of Dionisio Díaz García is directly related to his legitimate peaceful activities in defence of human rights in Tegucigalpa.

Front Line urges the Honduran authorities to:

1. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the murder of Dionisio Díaz García, publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice;
2. Take immediate action to guarantee the safety of all ASJ members, in particular that of Carlos Hernandez, Dina Meetabel Meza Elvir, Robert Marín and Rosa Morazán
3. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the ongoing threats and intimidation against ASJ members, publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice.

Front Line respectfully reminds you that the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms also recognises the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders and their right to carry out their activities without fear of reprisals. We would particularly draw attention to Article 9 (5): *'The State shall conduct a prompt and impartial investigation or ensure that an inquiry takes place whenever there is reasonable ground to believe that a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms has occurred in any territory under its jurisdiction'* and Article 12 (2): *'The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration'*.