

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

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Contribution of Peruvian trade unionists killed in plane crash will live on, says world union body

BRUSSELS, 26 August 2005. (ICFTU OnLine): The ICFTU today sent a letter of condolence to the General Secretary of the General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP) following the tragic deaths of five trade unionists involved in a plane crash near Pucallpa, Peru on the 23rd of August, 2005.

Ever Rodriguez Flores (the union's Lead Negotiator), Luis Rojas Rojas, (the General Secretary of the Continental Bank Workers' Union), Jose Flores Arroyo (legal advisor to the local NGO PLADES - Programme for Labour Development), Roberto Palma Guevara (an official from the Peruvian University Academics Union -FENDUP) and Jose Lino Reyna (from the regional branch of FENDUP), were among the approximately 70 passengers aboard the TANS flight heading for Pucallpa, in the Amazon region.

"In one foul swoop, the world has lost five people who dedicated their lives to the fight for workers' rights and social justice," Guy Ryder, General Secretary of the ICFTU said today.

The five were on their way to a difficult negotiation for a collective agreement on behalf of the workers from the Maple Gas Corporation - Peru.

Nancy Ramirez, from the ICFTU's Trade Union Rights Department, spoke to Mr. Rodriguez Flores only last week regarding the hotly contested draft labour legislation expected to be discussed in the near future.

"This loss will be deeply felt throughout our organisation. The contribution they made to the work of the trade union movement will not be forgotten," Mr Ryder continued.

"The ICFTU extends our deepest sympathies to the families, friends and co-workers of our deceased colleagues," he concluded.

The ICFTU represents 145 million workers in 234 affiliated organisations in 154 countries and territories. ICFTU is also a member of Global Unions: <http://www.global-unions.org>

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