

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ITUC)

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Guatemala: Two More Women Workers Killed

Brussels, 3 August 2011 (ITUC OnLine): The delegates at the II Conference against Impunity in Guatemala, convened by the ITUC and its Guatemalan affiliates and held from 21 to 22 July in Guatemala City, have condemned and expressed grave concern at the killings of two women, members of the national front for the defence of public services and natural resources, FNL, who have paid with their lives for their outstanding commitment to the fight waged alongside the Guatemalan people.

Lesbia Elías Xurup, a member of Comunidades en Resistencia contra Unión FENOSA, fighting against the energy group's abuses, was savagely hacked to death by machetes at her home in Comunidad de La Selva, Santo Domingo, Suchitepéquez, on 21 July. The assassins went directly to her home and, not content with killing her, chopped off one of her hands.

María Santos Mejía, secretary of the independent maquilas union Sindicato de Maquilas Independientes, was shot in the head several times by assailants on a motorbike. She leaves orphaned her four children and four-month-old baby.

In a letter http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/Protesta_Otras_dos_trabajadoras_de_la_salud_asesinadas_agosto.pdf to President Colom, the ITUC urged him to take every step necessary to bring an end to the constant murders and violations of the rights of working people. "It is essential that the Guatemalan government take urgent measures to guarantee the full exercise of human, labour and trade union rights in the country and to end the murders of trade unionists and women trade unionists," insisted ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow.

The Conference adopted a Statement (<http://www.ituc-csi.org/declaration-from-the-ii.html?lang=en>) bringing together a series of demands calling on the government to stop the incessant violations of workers' fundamental rights, including the right to life, to end impunity and the femicide plaguing the country, to strengthen the judiciary, etc.

The ITUC represents 175 million workers in 151 countries and territories and has 305 national affiliates. <http://www.ituc-csi.org> and <http://www.youtube.com/ITUCCSI>

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