

Clean Clothes Campaign

International Office



Sr. Jimmy Morales
Presidente de la República de Guatemala
Casa Presidencial
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Ciudad de Guatemala
República de Guatemala
Email: jimmy.morales@fcnnacion.com

Date: July 4th 2016

Reference: Assassination of labour rights defender Brenda Marleni Estrada Tambito

Dear Mr. President,

Clean Clothes Campaign, an international network of more than 250 trade unions, labour, women and consumer organizations, operating in different continents to improve working conditions of men and women working in the clothing industry, strongly condemns the ruthless murder of Brenda Marleni Estrada Tambito, who was shot five times as she drove through Guatemala City on June 19th 2016.

Ms. Marleni was deputy coordinator of the Legal Advisory Committee of the Trade Union of Workers of Guatemala (UNSI TRAGUA/HISTORICA), and member of the Legal Team of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (CSA). This crime brings grief to the global labour movement and reflects the climate of terror and persecution that still exists in Guatemala.

The murder of the labour rights defender Brenda Marleni Tambito Estrada is not an isolated case. She was the second trade union leader murdered in Guatemala this year, among 96 murdered union activists in eight years. In addition, during the first quarter of 2016 only, another trade union member was physically attacked and 12 union activists were threatened or harassed, according to the Red de Defensores de Derechos Laborales (Labour Rights Defenders Network) in Guatemala.

The international labour movement will not tolerate the continued killing, threatening and harassment of unionists and the lasting culture of impunity in Guatemala. Therefore, the Clean Clothes Campaign joins the call of the Association of Home, Domestic and Maquila Workers (ATRAHDOM) to urge the Justice Department and the Commission Against Impunity (CICIG) to carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation of the murder of Brenda Marleni Estrada Tambito, and that those responsible be brought to justice in accordance with international standards.

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Improving working conditions in the global garment industry



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We also urge that all necessary protective measures be taken to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of Brenda Marleni Estrada Tambito's family, and of all trade union leaders and human rights defenders, in order to enable them to carry out their responsibilities without fear of reprisals.

Finally, we would like to express our solidarity with the family of Brenda Marleni, as well as to other unionists in Guatemala who within the present conditions of systematic violations of human rights continue to struggle for the defense of labour rights.

In solidarity,

Eva Kreisler
Coordinator
Campaña Ropa Limpia en España

Marta Zogbi
Urgent Appeals Coordinator –
Clean Clothes Campaign
international office

Campaña Ropa Limpia / Clean Clothes Campaign
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