

# **URGENT ACTION: NO MORE THREATS AND VIOLENCE TOWARD COMMUNITY LEADERS IN CABAÑAS!**

**Community leaders from the region of Cabañas and Santa Marta have come under serious threat in the past months.**

- On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the body of Marcelo Rivera, community leader from San Isidro, Cabañas, who had disappeared on June 18 and was found, tortured and murdered. Marcelo was an environmental activist, opposing mining in the region and denouncing electoral fraud in the municipality in January 2009. While there are four gang members who are considered suspects for the crime, there has been no research into the intellectual authors of the crime, who potentially hired the gang members to kill Marcelo.
- On July 27th, three journalists from Radio Victoria, who had been reporting on Marcelo's case, received intensifying death threats, telling them that they would “end up like Marcelo”.
- On July 28th, Father Luis Quintanilla, the priest who works with the community of Santa Marta and advocates for human rights in the region, was attacked after doing a radio show on Radio Victoria. Father Luis narrowly escaped a kidnapping and assassination attempt.
- On July 29th, a community leader in Santa Marta, the director of Ades, and a number of social organizations in Cabañas all received death threats.

## TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE CASES:

- Please watch "The Mysterious Death of Marcelo Rivera" <http://www.jamiemoffett.com/> a seven-minute documentary by Philadelphia filmmaker Jamie Moffett. The video will give you the background and the circumstances around Marcelo's death.
- Please read (<http://www.agenciapulsar.org/nota.php?id=15501>) and watch (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFNLXrnnDec>), which documents the intimidation, death threats, and violence that community members in Cabañas continue to face, including the above mentioned journalists from Radio Victoria and Father Luis Quintanilla.
- Visit [www.elsalvadorsolidarity.org](http://www.elsalvadorsolidarity.org) to view up-to-date information

# HOW CAN YOU ACT IN SOLIDARITY WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN CABAÑAS?

## **AFTER the 10<sup>th</sup> of August:**

### **Email the Attorney General's Office and Police:**

Paste these emails:

[alberto.uribe@fgr.gob.sv](mailto:alberto.uribe@fgr.gob.sv),

[violetapolanco@pnc.gob.sv](mailto:violetapolanco@pnc.gob.sv),

[\\_angel.manzano@pnc.gob.sv](mailto:_angel.manzano@pnc.gob.sv),

[radelgado@fgr.gob.sv](mailto:radelgado@fgr.gob.sv)

[astor.escalante@fgr.gob.sv](mailto:astor.escalante@fgr.gob.sv)

[fatima.guardado@fgr.gob.sv](mailto:fatima.guardado@fgr.gob.sv)

[Elopez@fgr.gob.sv](mailto:Elopez@fgr.gob.sv)

[joseph\\_4567@hotmail.com](mailto:joseph_4567@hotmail.com),

### **Or fax**

503-2523-7170: National Attorney General's Office

503-2382-0208: Cabanas Departmental Attorney General's Office

**Send the following email/fax:**

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Como miembro de la comunidad internacional, quiero expresar mi profunda preocupación por la violencia y amenazas contra líderes sociales en Cabañas. Estoy muy preocupado por el secuestro y brutal asesinato de Gustavo Marcelo Rivera, líder comunitaria de la ciudad de San Isidro, por el intento de asesinato al Padre Luis Quintanilla, y también por las amenazas de muerte a periodistas de Radio Victoria y a varias organizaciones sociales en Cabañas.

Considero que existen suficientes evidencias para presumir que el asesinato de Marcelo Rivera, el intento del asesinato al Padre y las otras amenazas se realizaron por motivos políticos. Pero en las investigaciones de los crímenes ninguno antecedente política está siendo considerado.

Por lo tanto como miembro de la comunidad internacional, hago un llamado para que la Fiscalía General de la República realice una investigación imparcial, exhaustiva y efectiva de todos estos casos, para dar con los autores intelectuales y materiales de estos horrendos crímenes, y también garantizar la protección de los otros líderes sociales en la región.

De quedar la muerte de Marcelo y las amenazas a otros líderes en impunidad, se genera un clima de temor e incertidumbre para los demás líderes y activistas sociales, contrarrestando así los avances logrados en el proceso de democratización del país. Las nuevas amenazas que están reportando cada día demuestran la urgencia de una investigación profunda.

Agradezco de antemano sus gestiones para agilizar las investigaciones y espero que pronto se haga justicia en estos casos.

Atentamente,  
Your Name

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***Translation of Email:***

As a member of the international community, I want to express my profound worry about the violence and threats toward community leaders in Cabañas. I am very worried about the kidnapping and brutal assassination of Gustavo Marcelo Rivera, activist and community leader from the community of San Isidro, about the assassination attempt against Father Luis Quintanilla, and the death threats to journalists at Radio Victoria and the various other social organizations in the region Cabañas.

I consider there to be sufficient evidence to assume that Marcelo Rivera's murder, the assassination attempt against the Priest and the other threats were committed for political motives. But none of the political antecedents are being considered in the investigation of the motives of these crimes.

Therefore as a member of the international community, I call on the Attorney General of the Republic's Office to carry out impartial, exhaustive and effective investigations of all of these cases, to find the intellectual and material authors of this horrendous crimes, and also to guarantee the protection of other community leaders in the region.

Leaving Marcelo's death and the threats to other leaders in impunity creates a climate of fear and uncertainty for the rest of the leaders and social activists, negating the advances achieved in the process of democratization in the country. The new threats that are reported every day demonstrate the urgency of a deep investigation.

Thank you in anticipation for your efforts to speed up the investigations and I hope that there will soon be justice in this case and reparations for Marcelo's family.

***Do you speak Spanish?***

**Call the Authorities in El Salvador to demand Justice!**

**San Salvador Attorney General's Office**

**011-503- 2523-7171**

**or 011-503-2523-7282**

**Department of Cabanas Attorney General's Office**

**011-503-2382-0668**

**011-503-2382-0674**

**City of Victoria Police Department**

**011-503-2389-3009**

**Talking Points:**

Hola, mi nombre es \_\_\_\_\_, y estoy llamando para expresar mi profunda preocupación por la violencia y amenazas contra líderes sociales en Cabanas. Estoy muy preocupado por el secuestro y brutal asesinato de Gustavo Marcelo Rivera, por el intento de asesinato al Padre Luis Quintanilla, y también por las amenazas de muerte a periodistas de Radio Victoria y a varias organizaciones sociales en Cabañas.

Es necesario agilizar y profundizar las investigaciones y proteger a los testigos de todos estos casos.

Exijo al Fiscalía General de la Republica realizar una investigación imparcial, exhaustiva y efectiva para dar con los autores intelectuales y materiales de estos horrendos crímenes.

Gracias.

**IN CANADA contact your local MPs and MPPs.**

Dear (MP or MPPs name)

I am writing to you today to express my extreme concern over the current violence, intimidation, and death threats towards human rights defenders and community leaders in the region on Cabañas El Salvador.

This violence includes the kidnapping, torture and brutal assassination of **Gustavo Marcelo Rivera**--activist and community leader; the assassination attempt against **Father Luis Quintanilla**—human rights defender and catholic priest in the community; and the death

threats to journalists at Radio Victoria and the various other social organizations in the region Cabañas.

I would like to also express my alarm over Pacific Rim's—a CANADIAN mining company—actions not only in the region of Cabañas but also the legal actions that the company has taken against the Salvadoran government. Because the government has refused to allow Pacific Rim the extractive drilling rights to the El Dorado mine in Cabañas, the company is currently suing the government of El Salvador for \$77 million dollars under the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). It is particularly pertinent that Canada is not a signatory of the CAFTA agreement.

For more information about the death of Marcelo Rivera and Pacific Rim's actions in El Salvador please watch this video: <http://www.jamiemoffett.com/>.

As an elected representative, I urge you to:

1. Call on the Attorney General's office of El Salvador to conduct a prompt, exhaustive, and independent investigate into the murder of anti-mining activist Marcelo Rivera and ongoing death threats received by other community leaders.
2. Conduct a comprehensive investigation into Pacific Rim's activities in El Salvador, particularly in region of Cabañas and into the legitimacy of Pacific Rim's law suit against the government of El Salvador.

Respectively,

Your Name