

**Mr. Lenin Moreno Garces**

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CC: Dr. Carlos Baca M., STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL,  
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CC: Mag. Cesar Navas Vera, MINISTER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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CC: Marianne van Steen, EU Delegation to Ecuador  
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Berlin, 28 February 2018

**Protection of ASTAC union members after death threat**

Dear Mr. President,

With great concern we have learned about the death threat made against Mr. Jorge Washington Acosta Orellana, General Coordinator of the union ASTAC (Asociación Sindical de Trabajadores Agrícolas y Campesino), an incident denounced at the Guayas State Attorney General (Fiscalía) on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 (No. 090101818024320). According to the trade union organization, already in the past few months unknown individuals have been seen near ASTAC's office in Quevedo monitoring and taking pictures of the people visiting the office. In addition, ASTAC's technical coordinator, Mrs. Maricla Guzman, was followed by a man on a motorbike concealing his face.

We ask you to guarantee the physical safety of Mr. Acosta and of all the women and men ASTAC collaborators and their families, and to carry out a thorough investigation of the events.

Moreover, a certain parallel can be drawn with the hostile attitude of many banana companies against organized workers and against this trade union in particular. At the same time, we see that little action is taken by the public actors to protect basic human rights in the industry. This implies a violation of C87 and C98 of the ILO in the banana sector, an issue that has been discussed in the past 18 months, also at ILO level.

We feel sure that this matter is of mutual interest, given that human rights violations contradict the standards of global coexistence as well as the industry's image on the international markets. We ask you to meet the audience request submitted by ASTAC on August 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 to start a dialogue on these issues.

We close in the hope that we will soon receive information about your investigations into this case and the steps that you have taken to strengthen human rights compliance in the Ecuadorian banana industry.

Yours sincerely,



Mirjam Hägele

*International Coordinator Make Fruit Fair!  
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*Director  
CEEV Zivica, Slovakia*



Anca Gheorghică

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