

March 10, 2016

Dear Attorney General Lynch, U.S. Attorney Williams, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Nyhus,

We undersigned 137 labor, faith, immigrant rights, and civil rights organizations are following up on the previous letter sent on September 8, 2015 and write to ask that you dismiss the reentry charges currently against Portland labor leader Francisco Aguirre (docket case: #3:14-cr-00400-JO-1). In addition to the concerns mentioned in the previous letter, we wanted to highlight the recent tragic murder in El Salvador of Mr. Aguirre's 19-year-old son Denis Moises Escalante Aguirre, known as Moises by his friends and family.

Francisco was told by Salvadoran police that Moises had been playing soccer with friends when two men called his name. When he answered, they told him that they were ordered to kill him and shot him sixteen times. His legs almost fell apart from his body due to the impact of the shooting. Horrifically, Moises is just one of many close family members of Mr. Aguirre who have died from the violence in El Salvador.

Moises had been living in Oregon with his father after asking for asylum himself. He had become well-known by activists in Portland and accompanied his father in his work in the community. However, Moises had been so traumatized by his experiences in a child refugee detention center and was terrified by the targeting of his father by DHS and also the prosecution by DOJ, that he became convinced he would end up imprisoned again if he stayed in the United States. Moises begged to return to El Salvador and did so in July 2015. He was dead a little over six months later.

While Mr. Aguirre mourns his son and must explain their brother's vicious murder to his two young U.S. citizen daughters, he and his family must also live in fear of the reentry charge he is facing from your office and the trial that begins April 19th. We request again that in light of the death of Moises, you exercise your prosecutorial discretion to drop the charge and let Mr. Aguirre and his family grieve in peace. We also request more generally that in light of the widespread violence in the Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras), your office refrain from prosecuting for entry and reentry those fleeing violence and death in those countries. Moises is a tragic example of the real consequences of deterrence of refugees through prosecution.

Mr. Aguirre is an influential leader of the immigrant rights and labor movements, and he is a pillar within the community. He was the worker center coordinator for the VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project in Portland, which is a worker-led organization that empowers immigrants and day laborers to gain control over their working conditions through leadership development, organizing, and community education. Through his work as an organizer, he has helped workers collect \$500,000 in stolen wages, has helped improve health and safety labor standards, and organized neighborhood clean-ups. He is a passionate advocate for people's rights and is a musician who sings for social justice causes. Francisco is also a trailblazer of the national movement advocating for the rights of day laborers and has worked closely with the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON).

The prosecution of Mr. Aguirre would constitute a grave injustice for him, his family, and the community. We request that you dismiss the charges immediately.

Thank you,

AF3IRM

Alerta Migratoria NC

American Friends Service Committee-
Miami

American Friends Service Committee,
Massachusetts

Arkansas Restorative Justice Coalition

Arkansas Voices for Children

Auburn Seminary

Augustana Lutheran Church

Austin Jewish Voice for Peace

Beacon Presbyterian Fellowship, Oakland

California Immigrant Policy Center

Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition

CASA

Casa Esperanza

Casa Latina

Cascadia Chapter of the Pacific Green Party
of Oregon

Causa Oregon

Centro de Documentación en Derechos
Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J."
(CSMM)

Centro Legal de la Raza

Church Council of Greater Seattle

Church World Service

Coalicion de Derechos Humanos

Colectivo Son Jarocho Portland

Comité Fuerza y Unidad MORENA Los
Ángeles

Comite VIDA

Committee in Solidarity with the People of
El Salvador (CISPES)

Comunidades Construyendo Esperanza of
Cherokee Park United Church

Community Action Board of Santa Cruz
County - Centro Jornalero

Community Initiatives for Visiting
Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC)

Community United Against Violence
(CUAV)

Congress of Day Laborers-New Orleans
Workers' Center for Racial Justice

Conversations With Friends (MN)

Dallas AFL-CIO Central Labor Council

Dare to Dream: Get Educated! Latina
Conference

Day Worker Center of Mountain View

Detention Watch Network

Disciples of Christ Refugee and
Immigration Ministries

Dolores Street Community Services

Dominican Sisters of Houston

Don Bosco Workers Inc.

El Centro del Inmigrante

El/La Para TransLatinas

The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Tucson, Arizona
First Unitarian Church
The Food Security and Social Justice Network (Tucson)
Friends of Broward Detainees
Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights
Grassroots Leadership
Greater Birmingham Ministries
ICE out of Austin
Immigrant Youth Coalition
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Coalition
Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California (IDEPSCA)
Interfaith Coalition on Immigration, MN
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice
Jesuit Social Research Insitute
Jewish Voice for Peace
Jewish Voice for Peace-Portland, OR
Jobs With Justice
Journey Koinania Catholic Community
Junta for Progressive Action
Justice for Immigrants - San Jose Diocese
Kairos-Milwaukie UCC
Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center
KIWA (Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance)

LAOC
Latin America & Caribbean Action Network (LACAN)
Latino Faith Initiative - H.S. Power & Light Ministries
Latino Union of Chicago
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
Living Hope Wheelchair Association
Living Stages
Madre Tierra Collective
Malibu Community Labor Exchange
Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition
Migrant Rights Collective
Mijente | Not1More Campaign
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Day Laborer Organizing Network
National Immigration Law Center
National Lawyer's Guild, UC Davis
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance
New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia
North County Immigration Task Force
North Texas Dream
Opportunity Enterprises
Organización De Migrantes Organizados, AC
Organized Communities Against Deportations
Orgullo P'urhépecha

Pangea Legal Services

Pax Christi

Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)

Peace Over Violence

People Organized for Westside Renewal (POWER)

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

Pitzer in Ontario

Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo (PIDHDD Regional)

Pomona Economic Opportunity Center

Portland AFL-CIO

Portland Fellowship of Reconciliation

Portland Jobs with Justice

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

Pueblo Sin Fronteras

Racial Justice Action Center

Radical Women

RADIO ALUMBRA

RAIZ

Red Nacional Salvadorena en el Exterior
RENASE- WDC

Reformed Church of Highland Park

RENASE WDC

SEIU-USWW

Sisters of Mercy South Central Community

SOA Watch

Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)

Southeast Immigrant Rights Network

Southside Presbyterian Church Tucson, Arizona

Southside Worker's Center

Southwest Conference United Church of Christ

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Staten Island Community Job Center

Together Colorado

Unidad Latina en Accion New Haven

Unidad Latina en Accion NJ

Unimundal Collective

Unitarian Universalist Refugee & Immigrant Services & Education (UURISE)

United We Dream

University Lutheran Chapel of Berkeley

Voces de la Frontera

VOZ Workers Rights Education Project

We Are One, Inc.

We Belong Together

WeCount!

Wilco Justice Alliance (Williamson County, TX)

Witness for Peace