



The Environmental Committee of Cabañas in Defense of Water and Culture Association

Press Release

This Wednesday June 13, 2012 marked a year that the body of Juan Francisco Ayala, of the Environmental Committee of Cabañas, was found already buried in a common grave in the cemetery of La Bermeja in San Salvador. His body was classified as unknown, even though his disappearance had been reported to the Attorney General's Office and the Police as of June 3rd. This was the the date he left home to go to the University where he was studying his final year of language studies, a dream which was shattered by his murders who are assumed to have been hired. The sin of this young man was that of being part of the Committee, and confronting projects that threaten lives, like metallic mining by foreign companies, for example CANADIAN BASED COMPANY PACIFIC RIM.

The young man's death is in addition to the murders of Marcelo, a member of the Friends of San Isidro Association (ASIC), Ramiro, trustee of board of the Environmental Committee of Cabañas, Dora, who was eight months pregnant and also a member of the Environmental Committee of Cabañas, and on top of it all, to date the murder of Juan Francisco has not lead to any arrests, nor information from the Attorney General's Office surrounding the investigations in the case, and the murderers are walking free. In this case, the investigators have not thought it oportune to say that the murder was the result a personal feud, as they have done with the past murders. We do not share this hypothesis.

We demand that the responsible authorities:

- Capture the material and intellectual authors in the case of Juan Francisco.
- Release information about the case, because they have failed to do so to date and it has been a year since our coworker's murder.
- Understand that we are environmentalists and that we don't have problems with anyone, except for with the company Pacific Rim because we oppose its project in Cabañas.
- We demand, again, that the representatives of the Legislative Assembly pass a law that would ban mining in our country, because if they don't all of us who oppose mining will be at risk.
- Also, we would like to make those who govern our country see that the multi-million dollar law suits that we face, like that of Pacific Rim, are because of free trade agreements, and that is why we demand that El Salvador does not sign a free trade agreement with Canada.

No more murders of environmentalists that defend life