

## Santiago Rafael Cruz, Presente!

- On April 9, 2007, Santiago Rafael Cruz was bound with rope and beaten to death in the offices of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, where he worked as an organizer.
- Santiago had recently moved to Monterrey and began working in the FLOC office.
- Preceding his assassination, FLOC President and organizers had been organizing gatherings of agricultural workers that travel to the US on an H2A visa from Mexico to root out corruption, extortion, and other crimes that were widespread in the H2A program.
- There can be no doubt that this assassination was a blatant act of intimidation meant to stop the union from aiding farm laborers.
- In response to this assassination, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS granted protective measures to other members of FLOC, asking the Mexican State to ensure their safety and to vigorously investigate this murder.
- FLOC is still fighting to pressure the Mexican government to bring the assassins to justice.
- FLOC members honor Santiago's sacrifices for justice in the agricultural industry by continuing the fight he gave his life for. In 2018, FLOC launched a boycott of Reynolds e-cigarette, VUSE to escalate a 10 year campaign to pressure Reynolds American to clean up its supply chain by signing an agreement with FLOC to guarantee the freedom of association and the right to collectively bargain on all of the farms where they source tobacco.

