



## **MURDER OF PEASANT LEADER LORENZO ARECO IN PARAGUAY**

**August, 2013.**

The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (RedLad), warns about the murder of peasant leader and human rights defender Lorenzo Areco, Secretary for Land and Agrarian Reform of Executive Committee of Organizacion Campesina Regional de Concepción (Regional Peasant Organization of Concepción-OCRC) in Paraguay.

American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has condemned the events that occurred on 14 August, in which the activist was killed. Areco was one of the main leaders of the peasant community of Reconquista in actions for families without land and land rights actions. In December 2012, the IACHR also condemned the murder, Vidal Vega, leader of the movement Campesinos sin Tierra (Peasants Landless) and President of Comision de Familiares de Víctimas de la masacre de Curuguay (Committee of Relatives of Victims of Curuguay) and in February 2013, IAHRC condemned the murder of peasant leader Benjamin Lezcano of Coordinadora Campesina " Gaspar Rodriguez de Francia " .

Reports say that the peasant Areco is number 131 killed since the beginning of the democratic transition in Paraguay in 1989. They all murdered by questions relating to land tenure and access to it. In the last year, have been killed over 5 peasant leaders of north of the country for these causes.

The Permanent Secretariat of RedLad, platform of more than 520 organizations working for the respect of human rights and democratic deepening, Official Member of the Civil Society Forum of the OAS and Regional Chapter of World Movement for Democracy (WMD):

- Urges the Paraguayan government to do an impartially and thoroughly investigate the facts and bring to justice those responsible.
- The upsurge of evidence of human rights violations and persecution and murder of peasant leaders is highly disturbing and Paraguayan State is obligated to safeguard and protect such rights.



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- It calls for the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs ) to monitor and report violations of human rights and support their divulgation in national and international media.
- Its joins the IACHR and urges the State of Paraguay to adopt immediately and urgently of all necessary measures to guarantee the right to life, integrity and security of human rights defenders in the country, especially those working in the Movimiento de Campesinos sin Tierra (Landless movement).

**Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (RedLad).**



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