

15 April, 2013

From Alfredo Cárcamo,  
IEHM (Iglesia Evangélica Hermanos en Cristo – Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church)

Dear brothers and sisters: As I wrote you earlier, we continue to request your prayers for the Mennonite Church in the neighborhood of Sabillón Cruz in the Chamelecón area of San Pedro Sula, Honduras and also for Pastor José Fernández and his family.

Accompanying this situation that they are living through, I want to share with you that on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, one of the leaders of the youth group was killed; according to a police report, the murder was committed by one of the groups that is trying to take control of the area. During the wake\*, in the early hours of Wednesday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the house of Pastor José was searched by police and he was forcibly detained and treated roughly by members of the police. A few hours later, he was let go. The Mennonite church is accompanying the pastor by registering the incident with the Human Rights office and as an institution hopes to be able to publicly denounce the act as an act of aggression to one of their pastors.

The situation is very difficult for the church community, including those who have stayed in the neighborhood. Some of them are young people who had been involved in the gangs in years past, but have since left the gangs thanks to the help of the church ministry there. There are also 54 church members who have fled fearing for their lives. Pastor José has shared this so that we can help to pray for these fellow believers, that the Lord helps them and provides for their needs.

We thank you for your intercessory prayers and if you have any ideas of other ways to bless or support these brothers and sisters, it would be a great blessing to them.

In Christ's love, Alf.

\*In Honduras, the velorio, or wake, lasts all night with some family and church members staying through the night.