

Fyffes response to the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

Following an investigation of a complaint to UK Government-backed Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI) regarding conditions in Fyffes Honduran melon operations, ETI has recently concluded that the allegations contained in the complaint were factually unfounded. In particular, ETI accepted a report from the Honduran Ministry of Labour confirming that company payrolls were in full compliance with local laws. With regard to allegations related to the health and safety of workers they concluded that the incident cited was an accident and the company had responded in an appropriate way, as confirmed by a report carried out by the local government agencies involved.

As part of the ETI process, Fyffes has given a commitment to work with the International Union of Food Workers (IUF) to reach a mutually agreeable framework for engagement to explore options aimed at creating effective and legal representation and recognition for workers who choose to join a union at Fyffes melon subsidiary, Suragroh.

Reports have been circulating in recent weeks regarding an incident which is said to have occurred in Choluteca on Thursday, 13 April when two local men were attacked and robbed. The victims claim to have been threatened by their attackers as a result of union activity. Some of these reports have implied that Fyffes and Suragroh were in some way linked to the incident. This suggestion is without foundation and is both reprehensible and highly irresponsible.

Security in Honduras is challenging with hundreds of violent robberies daily. We continue to believe that the best way forward for the communities in which we operate is through stable economic development, respect for local laws and institutions. The company condemns in the strongest terms any acts of violence or intimidation against any individuals or organisations.

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