

via fax : 011 502 2221 4423/2239-0090 Licenciado Oscar Berger Perdomo President of the Republic of Guatemala	Via fax: 011 502 2251 2218 Juan Luis Florido. Attorney General and Chief of Police, Guatemala
via fax :011 502 2362-02 37 Carlos Vielman Minister of the Interior, Guatemala	

April 13, 2005

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of journalists **Marielos Monzon** and **Gabriel Mazzarovich**, who have been subjected to death treats and intimidation in what appears to be an effort to force them to stop reporting on anti-CAFTA demonstrations. There is popular opposition to the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) among farmers, indigenous communities and teachers, who say CAFTA will destroy their livelihoods.

At 12:50 pm on March 17, Marielos Monzon received three consecutive phone calls on her mobile phone, made to appear that they came from her own house; but when she phoned home her family said nobody had called her. Minutes later she received another call in which a man said, "Stop defending those stinking Indians you bitch or we will kill you."

Gabriel Mazzarovich, an Uruguayan citizen and co-worker of Marielos Monzon, was reported dead in Uruguayan newspapers, even though he is alive. This is an apparent attempt to intimidate Mazzarovich.

Protesters have been violently repressed by units of the police and the army during demonstrations in the municipality of Colotenango, Department of Huehuetanango, in the northeast of the country, and the capital, Guatemala City. We wrote to Guatemalan government officials on March 26 to protest the military's killing of Juan López of the Guatemalan Education Workers Union. We are concerned that the army, contrary to the Peace Accords of 1996, has been repeatedly used in internal security during the government of President Berger.

**We strongly urge you to:**

- take immediate measures, in accordance with the journalists' own wishes, to guarantee their safety;
- begin an immediate and thorough investigation into the death threats and other harassment of Marielos Monzon and Gabriel Mazzarovich, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into all the reports of human rights violations committed during the demonstrations against CAFTA, regardless of who is accused, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- remember in all your dealings that under the 1996 Peace Accords the role of the army should be only the exterior defense of the country.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: Dr. Sergio Fernando Morales Alvarado, Human Rights Procurator ~ via fax: 011 502 7775 5476  
Offices of the program "Good Morning with Marielos Monzon " ~ via fax: 011 502 2368 3355  
Ambassador Jose Guillermo Castillo~via fax: 1 202 745 1908  
Ambassador John Hamilton ~ via fax: 011 502 2334 8477  
Courtney Turner, Guatemala Desk ~ via fax: 1 202 647 2597  
U.S. Senators DeWine and Voinovich ~ via fax, email  
U.S. Representatives Brown, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via fax, email

UA70 /05 Guatemala

**The following people hereby urge that you take action on this matter as indicated in this letter.**