

via fax: 011 503 2249 8613
Lic.Félix Garrid Safie
Attorney General of El Salvador

September 14, 2006

Dear Attorney General:

We are extremely saddened and outraged at the **murders of Alex Flores Montoya and his wife, Mercedes Peñate de Montoya**, two well-known FMLN leaders, who were found dead on August 23 in the municipality of Coatepeque, Department of Santa Ana. They were traveling in their vehicle when they were intercepted by another vehicle, forced to lie face down on the ground, each shot with a single bullet to the head, and abandoned in a nearby alley.

These killings come just weeks after the brutal assassination on July 1 of **Francisco Antonio Manzanares** and **Juana Monjaras de Manzanares**, also with the FMLN. Both murders were carried out in the style of the armed clandestine death squads that operated with impunity in the 1980s. Recent events point to a dangerous setback for human rights in El Salvador: death squad-style murders are more frequent; social cleansing groups like the Sombra Negra and the Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Central Commando are resurging; and extermination groups within the ranks of the National Civilian Police are making public denouncements. All of this is even more alarming when political repression is on the rise and these executions appear to be deliberately targeting political activists on the left.

We therefore demand that your office carry out a prompt and thorough investigation into both the recent assassination of the Montoya couple and the July 1 brutal murder of the Manzanares couple, make the results public and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

CC Antonio Saca, President of El Salvador ~ via fax 011-503 2243 7857
Rene Figueroa, Minister of the Interior and Governance ~ via fax 011-503-2281-5959
H. Douglas Barclay, U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador ~ via fax: 011-503-2-234-2001
Rene Antonio León Rodríguez, El Salvador Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 1-202-234-3834
Paul Degler, El Salvador Desk at U.S. State Dept. ~ fax: 202-647-2597
Paolo Carozza US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ fax: (202)458-3992
Florentín Meléndez, El Salvador member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ fax: (202)458-3992
US Senators DeWine & Voinovich ~ via email
US Representatives Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

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The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter: