

via fax 011 502 2251 2218 <b>Licenciado Oscar Berger Perdomo</b> Presidente de la República de Guatemala	via fax: 011 502 251 2218 <b>Juan Luis Florido</b> Attorney General of Guatemala
via fax 011 502 2362 0237 <b>Carlos Vielman</b> Minister of the Interior & Justice, Guatemala	

September 25, 2005

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are outraged at the assassination of **HAROLD RAFAEL PEREZ GALLARDO**, an advisor to the Legal Program of Casa Alianza Guatemala, by an unidentified man on September 2 in Zone 7 of Guatemala City at approximately 9:30 am.

For the past six years Perez Gallardo has served as an advisor to the Casa Alianza Legal Program, which was formed in 1990 after the brutal murder of thirteen-year old Nahamán Carmona López by the National Police. The legal program seeks to defend and promote the rights of children, youth and young mothers. As a lawyer, Perez Gallardo was advising Casa Alianza on several pending cases involving irregular adoptions, murders, sexual exploitation, trafficking and other human rights violations against children.

**We strongly urge you to thoroughly investigate the murder of Harold Rafael Perez Gallardo and prosecute those responsible.** We also remind you that failing to protect human rights workers and to investigate attacks or threats against them is a violation of the Peace Accords under which the government agreed to “take special measures to protect those persons or entities working in the field of human rights.” The government agreed to “investigate, in a timely and exhaustive manner, any complaint it may receive relating to acts or threats that may be directed at them.”

For Peace With Justice,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Coordinator

Copies: Ambassador José Guillermo Castillo ~ fax: 1 202 745 1908  
Ambassador James Derham ~ fax: 011 502 334 8477  
Courtney Turner, Guatemala Desk ~ via fax: 1 202 647 2597  
U.S. Senators DeWine and Voinovich ~ via email  
U.S. Representatives Brown, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

GHRC\_Guatemala

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