

via fax: 011 502 2251 2218 Licenciado Oscar Berger Perdomo President of the Republic of Guatemala	via fax: 011 502 2251 2218 Juan Luis Florido Attorney General of Guatemala
via fax: 011 505 2352 0237 Carlos Vielman Minister of the Interior	

November 24, 2006

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of employees of the Team for Community Studies and Psychosocial Action (ECAP) in Rabinal, Baja Verapaz Department, who have been the victims of threats and intimidation on two occasions in the past two months. On the morning of September 30 an employee of ECAP was followed for several hours in Rabinal by an Isuzu car with tinted windows and without license plates. On October 2 at approximately 3:00 AM, a letter was found at the ECAP office in Rabinal that said, "You should be careful, because you all are scheduled for a kidnapping and for something more... This October 2 you shouldn't travel at all or meet with anyone... Take care of yourselves before you regret it..."

ECAP's work with human rights victims has made ECAP workers the targets of intimidation. ECAP accompanies exhumations and provides psychosocial support to survivors of the massacre in Plan de Sánchez, near Rabinal, on July 18, 1982. The massacre of 250 villagers was part of the "scorched earth" policy of then-President (General) Efraín Ríos Montt. ECAP also tracks the reparations process for the survivors and families of the massacre victims.

In light of these facts, we strongly urge you to

- investigate the threats against ECAP and hold those responsible accountable;
- provide adequate security for ECAP employees
- stop threats and intimidation against ECAP employees

We remind you that failing to protect human rights workers and investigate attacks or threats against them is a violation of the 1996 Peace Accords. Under the Accords, the government of Guatemala agreed to "take special measures to protect those persons or entities working in the field of human rights," and to "investigate, in a timely and exhaustive manner, any complaint it may receive relating to acts or threats that may be directed at them." We strongly urge you to follow through on your commitment.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai,
 Coordinator

Copies: Guatemala Human Rights Commission—USA via fax ~ 202-526-4611
 Ambassador Jose Guillermo Castillo ~ via fax: 202 745 1908
 Ambassador James Derham ~ via fax: 011-502-2334-8477
 Paolo Carozza US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ fax: 202-458-3992
 Courtney Turner, Guatemala Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-2597
 US Senators DeWine & Voinovich ~ via email
 US Reps Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

GHRC-USA Oct 23 Guatemala

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

