

Via fax: 011 502 2413 8658 Sr. Raúl Antonio Velásquez Ramos Minister of the Interior, Guatemala	Via Fax: 011 502 2411 9124 / 9326 Lic. José Amilcar Velasquez Zarate Attorney General and Head of Public Prosecutor's Office of Guatemala
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October 3, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are extremely concerned for the safety of **Jesus Tecú Osorio** and his family in Baja Verapaz Department. On September 14, he received a phone call in which the anonymous caller told him that he knew where Tecú worked, what time he went to work, when he returned home, where his oldest son studied and what time he returned home. He asked Jesus if he wanted to "come to an agreement," but when Tecú indicated that he knew who was calling, the caller insulted him and threatened to kidnap, torture and dismember his children. Shortly thereafter the threats were repeated in a second call.

Jesus Tecú immediately filed a complaint in the police station in Salama and in the district attorney's office. However, by the following week neither of these institutions had taken steps to investigate the threats or to identify the caller.

Jesus Tecú, a survivor of the 1982 Rio Negro massacre when 107 children and 70 women were killed, has been a key witness in many trials focusing on human rights violations committed during the Guatemalan armed conflict that left over 200,000 victims. He is one of the founders of the Association for the Integral Development of the Victims of Violence in the Verapaces, Maya Achí (ADIVIMA). Recently he has been in charge of Rabinal's Legal Clinic, a human rights center that provides legal services to victims of the conflict. There is a strong likelihood that the recent threats are politically motivated because of Jesus' commitment to seeking justice for the genocide committed against the Maya Achí population in Rabinal. He has received many death threats over the years, none of which has been properly investigated.

Therefore, we **strongly urge** that you

- ensure that Jesus Tecú and his family are provided with all necessary protection;
- carry out an independent and impartial investigation of the threats on their lives, and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: Francisco Villagran de Leon, Guatemalan Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202-745-1908
 Stephen McFarland, US Ambassador to Guatemala ~ via fax: 011-502-2334-8477
 Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202-458-3992
 Brett Hamsak, Guatemala Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-2597
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
 US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Sutton, Wilson, Space ~ via email

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