

via fax: 011 502 2411 9124 Licda. Maria Encarnación Mejía García de Contreras Attorney General and Head of Public Prosecutor's Office of Guatemala	via fax: 011 502 2413 8658 Lic. Carlos Menocal Minister of Interior of Guatemala
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May 25, 2010

Dear Madam and Sir:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of a pregnant garment factory worker, her lawyer and legal advisor in Guatemala City. On April 21, **Delfina Vicente Yac**, executive secretary of the union in the garments factory in which she works in Guatemala City, was summoned to a meeting with a company manager. He tried to persuade her to either leave her job or quit her membership in the union, telling her "It's better that you leave the committee...why are you risking your life there?" He called her into another meeting on April 22 and again tried to pressure her into leaving her job, telling her "your life is in danger...we're going to chop you up."

On May 12, Guatemalan human rights and trade union organizations held a press conference at which Delfina Vicente publicly spoke about the pressures she was facing to leave her job or quit the union. Alejandro Argüeta Ramírez and Silvia Trujillo Bennett, her lawyer and legal advisor, were also present. On May 13 Alejandro Argüeta discovered that there had been a break-in at his office. Nothing of value had been taken, but one of the firm's laptop computers, a computer hard drive, and his mobile phone which had been stored securely the night before, had been left out on a desk. Since the end of January, Alejandro Argüeta and Silvia Trujillo have received approximately 30 anonymous phone calls to their office or to Silvia Trujillo's mobile phone. The callers either ask for people whom they do not know or hang up when the call is answered. Three weeks ago they received an anonymous phone call at their home early in the morning. On several occasions since the end of March, unknown individuals have followed Alejandro Argüeta and Silvia Trujillo as they drove home from their office.

We **strongly urge** that you

- call for an independent, thorough, and impartial investigation into the threats and acts of intimidation against Delfina Vicente Yac, and into the intimidation of, and break-in at the office of her legal advisors, Alejandro Argüeta and Silvia Trujillo, make the results public, and bring those responsible to justice;
- take immediate steps to provide appropriate protection to Delfina Vicente Yac, Alejandro Argüeta and Silvia Trujillo, in accordance with their wishes.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: UDEFEGUA, Unit for the Defense of Human Rights Defenders in Guatemala ~ via fax: 011 502 2254 5840
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
Dinah Shelton, 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 and US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

UA/121/10_Guatemala

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