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Via FAX: 202.647.2597 Courtney Turner Guatemala Desk Officer, US Dept. of State	Via email: <a href="mailto:Jarmitage@worldbank.org">Jarmitage@worldbank.org</a> & fax 202.676.1464 Jane Armitage Country Director, Central America, World Bank

April 11, 2005

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are horrified at the killing of **Alvaro Benigno Sánchez**, age 23, on the evening of March 13, 2005. He was shot dead walking home with friends after attending a choral concert in the parish church in the municipality of San Miguel Ixtahuacán, Department of San Marcos, Guatemala. He was accosted by Ludwin Waldemar Calderon and Guillermo Lanuza, both of whom work for the Grupo Golan, a company providing security for Montana Mining Company's Marlin Project. Guillermo Lanuza, unprovoked, hit Alvaro Benigno and during the ensuing scuffle, Ludwin Waldemar Calderon pulled a gun, shot and killed him.

Since the murder, the manager of the Grupo Golan company telephoned the family of the victim a number of times to offer them money in an attempt to ensure that the general public does not find out what happened or that the family does not begin a legal process against the company.

We are deeply troubled that Alvaro Benigno Sánchez was murder by security guards for Montana Mining, a subsidiary of Glamis Gold in Guatemala. This is the second violent killing related to Glamis Gold's mining operation there. We wrote to the World Bank and COPREDEH February 24 to protest the murders of Raul Castro Bocel and Miguel Tzorin Tuy, killed by Guatemalan authorities while they were protesting the mine.

We are also very concerned that many mining concessions in Guatemala fall within indigenous territory and were granted without consultation. This is in direct violation of the ILO Convention 169. The rights of the people are being trampled upon. Open pit mining results in deforestation, releases toxic substances such as cyanide solutions into the environment and uses vast amounts of precious water supplies in the process. No thought is given to the health and well being of the people who live in the area.

In light of the facts presented here, we demand

- 1) a proper investigation and trial for those responsible for the murder of Alvaro Beningno Sanchez and
- 2) the suspension of the Glamis Gold mining operation.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: Frank LaRue, President of COPREDEH ~ 011.502.334.1407  
 David de Ferranti, Vice President, World Bank ~ via email: [Ddeferranti@worldbank.org](mailto:Ddeferranti@worldbank.org)  
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 Senator George Voinovich, US Senate ~ via email: [Daniel\\_knezevic@voinovich.senate.gov](mailto:Daniel_knezevic@voinovich.senate.gov)  
 U.S. Representatives Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email and fax

GHRC Glamis Guatemala

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