

via fax: 011 502 221 4423/239 0090 Oscar Berger Perdomo President of Guatemala	via fax: 011 502 2251 2218 Juan Luis Florido Solís Attorney General of Guatemala
via fax: 011 502 2362 0237 Carlos Vielman Minister of the Interior, Guatemala	

May 16, 2006

Dear Sirs:

We continue to be deeply concerned about the ongoing intimidation and violence toward the peasant organization of Nueva Linda Finca (farm) in Champerico, Retalhuleu Department. On April 27 Selvin Augusto Pérez Galicia, a member of the landowner's private security forces, fired an M-16 toward 25 members of the Movimiento Campesino en Resistencia Pro Justicia Finca (CCICSO), who are camped near the highway outside the finca. He also made a death threat against **Mariano Calel Aguilar**, president of the board of the Movimiento Campesino.

Members of the Movimiento gave testimony to the police, who promised to report the incident to the Public Prosecutor's Office. Pérez Galicia has not yet been arrested.

This most recent incident is only one in a series of acts of intimidation and aggression against campesinos at Nueva Linda:

- August 31, 2004...National Civil Police forcibly evicted campesinos (peasant farmers), killing 12 and injuring 45
- November 21, 2004...private security guards evicted more campesinos who had reoccupied the finca
- September 5, 2003...campesino leader Hector Reyes was disappeared
- January 20, 2006...three members of the private security forces, including Selvin Augusto Pérez Galicia, shot at them the campesino encampment, injuring Roberto Miguel González, Macario Gómez, and Bernabé Guillén.

We have sent at least three previous letters to Guatemalan officials, demanding that you investigate the violence against the campesinos at Nueva Linda and the abduction of Hector Reyes and bring those responsible to justice (December 3, 2004, February 23, 2005, January 24, 2006). Hector Reyes remains disappeared. To date the state institutions have failed to investigate or act to end the violence.

Again, we strongly urge that you

- conduct a thorough, impartial investigation of the Nueva Linda case, including the disappearance of Héctor Reyes and all subsequent incidents.
- issue an arrest warrant for Selvin Augusto Pérez Galicia in connection with the incidents of January 20 and April 27 of this year.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

- Copies: Ambassador José Guillermo Castillo ~ via fax
Ambassador James Derham ~via fax
Courtney Turner, Guatemala Desk, US State Department ~ via fax
U.S. Senators DeWine and Voinovich ~ via email
U.S. Representatives Brown, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

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