

via fax: 502 2251 2218 Licenciado Óscar Berger Perdomo President of the Republic of Guatemala	via fax: 011 502 251 2218 Juan Luis Florido Attorney General
via fax: 011 502 2362 0237 Carlos Vielman Minister of the Interior	

June 11, 2006

Dear Sirs:

We are concerned for the safety of **Erenia Vanegas**, **Luis Piñeda** and other workers of the National Human Rights Movement. They received threatening telephone calls from a man between May 11 and May 15. One call warned, "If you continue looking, we are going to kill you."

Erenia Vagengas and Luis Piñeda work in the National Human Rights Movement's Unit of Protection for Defenders, which monitors and investigates attacks on human rights defenders. In April they released a report outlining 65 cases of attacks on human rights defenders. The Unit has recently been monitoring cases that are especially complicated because they may involve attacks by members of organized crime, the security forces, and/or public officials.

Other important work of the National Human Rights Movement includes participation in the Front Against Mining and in activities related to implementing the recommendations of the Historical Clarification Commission. The Movement is also supporting the Human Rights Procurator in his investigation of the National Police files found last year. All these could be reasons for the threats.

We urge you to:

- investigate the source of the threats received by the staff of the National Human Rights Movement,
- prosecute those responsible to the full extent of the law, and
- remember that failing to protect human rights workers and investigate attacks or threats against them is a violation of the Peace Accords.

Under the Peace Accords the government agreed to "take special measures to protect those persons or entities working in the field of human rights." The government agreed to "investigate, in a timely and exhaustive manner, any complaint it may receive relating to acts or threats that may be directed at them."

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

Cc: Ambassador Jose Guillermo Castillo ~ via fax
Unit of Protection for Defenders ~ via email
Guatemala Human Rights Commission ~ via email
Ambassador James Derham ~ via fax
Courtney Turner, Guatemala Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax
US Senators DeWine & Voinovich ~ via email
US Reps Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email