

via fax: 011 502 2239 0090/ 011 502 2251 2218 <b>Oscar Berger</b> President of Guatemala	via fax: 011 502 2251 2218 <b>Juan Luis Florido</b> Attorney General, Guatemala
Via fax: 011 502 2362 0237 Carlos Vielman Minister of the Interior Guatemala	

June 15, 2006

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about the latest in a series of acts of intimidation against **Sector de Mujeres**. On May 28 or 29 intruders broke into the office of the organization, stole cell phones and the fax machine, rifled through files and left traces of blood close to the windows and on the floor. We are certain that this vile act was a result of the fact that 1) Sector de Mujeres has been organizing and speaking out against violations of women's rights for the past twelve years, 2) the organization continues to participate in efforts to end impunity and violence against women in Guatemala and 3) Sector de Mujeres has criticized the lack of progress in implementing the Peace Accords and 4) has joined others in the social movement to challenge the constitutionality of the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) and the passage of laws to implement the trade agreement. Peaceful acts of protest should be a guaranteed right rather than cause for acts of intimidation.

In light of these facts, we strongly urge you to investigate the break-in at the office of the Sector de Mujeres and hold those responsible accountable. We're sure that we don't have to remind you that failure to protect human rights workers and investigate attacks against them is a violation of the Peace Accords. In your positions as high government officials, you have an obligation to follow through on the Peace Accord commitments to protect human rights workers, including those working on women's rights, socio-economic justice and an end to violence and impunity.

On May 10, 115 Members of the US House of Representatives (including congresspersons from Ohio Brown, Kaptur, Kucinich, Ryan and Tubbs Jones) signed a letter to Thomas Shannon, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs urging his public support for the protection of women and human rights defenders in Guatemala. Be assured that we will see to it that our elected officials here in the United States are made aware of this attack on the Sector de Mujeres.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

For Peace with Justice,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Coordinator

Copies: Ambassador Jose Guillermo Castillo ~ via fax  
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

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