

IRTF

InterReligious Task Force on Central America
3606 Bridge Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113
tel: 216.961.0003 fax: 216.961.0002 e-mail: irtf@igc.org

via fax: 502 2251 2218 Licenciado Óscar Berger Perdomo Presidente de la República de Guatemala	via fax: 011 502 2362 0237 Carlos Vielman Ministro de Gobernación/Minister of the Interior
via fax: 011 502 2251 2218 Juan Luis Florido Fiscal General / Attorney General	

July 15, 2005

Dear Sirs,

We are outraged at the assassination of **Alvaro Juárez**, a leader in the Alliance for Peace and Life, whose mission is development related to health, education, land, housing and humanitarian aid. As a leader also in the Association of the Displaced of the Petén, he campaigned against the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and against construction of hydroelectric dams in the Petén.

On the night of July 8, 2005 heavily armed men entered his home in San Benito Petén and killed him while he was eating dinner.

His murder coincides with the intimidation of two other human rights leaders who have been active in the struggle against CAFTA and who have received written death threats.

A previous attempt on Alvaro Juárez's life was reported to the authorities but was never investigated, nor were the threats on his life received a few days before his murder.

We implore the Guatemalan government to appreciate and protect the most admirable citizens and, to that end, take the following actions:

- investigate the murder of Alvaro Juárez and prosecute those responsible
- take whatever protective measures are requested by the Juárez family and all members of the Association of the Displaced of the Petén and of the Alliance for Peace and Hope
- abide by the Peace Accords (which it signed), which require "that the government take special measures to protect those persons or entities working in the field of human rights."

For peace with justice,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

copies: Ambassador José Guillermo Castillo ~ via fax: 1 202 745 1908
Ambassador John Hamilton ~ via fax: 011 502 2334 8477
Courtney Turner, Guatemala Desk ~ via fax: 1 202 647 2597
U.S. Senators DeWine and Voinovich ~ via email
U.S. Representatives Brown, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

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