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| VIA FACSIMILE: 011 502 2251 2218<br><b>Sr. Juan Luis Florido</b><br>Attorney General of Guatemala | VIA FACSIMILE: 011 502 2362 0237<br><b>Sr. Carlos Vielman</b><br>Minister of the Interior and Justice, Guatemala |
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August 15, 2006

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of **Erwin Estuardo Orrego Borrayo**, a member of the trade union FENVEMEGUA (Emergency Front of Market Sellers of Guatemala).

At 4pm on July 27 Erwin Orrego was stopped by two armed men dressed in black uniforms (the color of uniform used by Guatemalan police). The men showed him a police badge, aimed their pistols at him and then struck him on the head with a pistol. They dislocated his left shoulder when they struck him again. They forced him into a truck and blindfolded him. Approximately 12 individuals used radio communication as they transferred him among three different cars for about two hours. Finally he was taken to a building and heard "abort operation—without execution" over one of the radios.

At about 6pm Erwin was abandoned in the Boca del Monte area south of Guatemala City. Rescued by members of a Guatemalan human rights organization, he received medical attention and presented his complaint and testimony to the Public Prosecutor's Office, which still had taken no action by July 31.

This is not the first instance of abuse suffered by Erwin Orrego. In August 2003 he was kidnapped and tortured and in February 2006 a local human rights organization documented four instances of threats against him.

In light of these facts, we strongly urge you to

- provide Erwin Estuardo Orrego Borrayo and his family with full protection;
- call for an immediate and thorough investigation into the kidnapping and threats, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- see that the investigation of the case is brought under the jurisdiction of the Special Unit for Crimes Committed Against Human Rights Activists of the Public Prosecutors Office.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

**Brian J. Stefan Szittai**  
 Coordinator

copies José Guillermo Castillo, Guatemala Ambassador to the US ~ via fax  
 James Dirham, US Ambassador to Guatemala ~ via fax  
 Lic. Oscar Berger: President of Guatemala ~ via fax  
 Courtney Turner, Guatemala Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax  
 Guatemala Human Rights Commission USA ~ via fax  
 Dr. Sergio Fernando Morales Alvarado, Human Rights Ombudsman of Guatemala ~ via fax  
 Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax  
 US Senators DeWine & Voinovich ~ via email  
 US Reps Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA 2006/06 GUATEMALA

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

