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| via fax: 011 502 2221 4423/239 0090 President Oscar Berger Perdomo Presidente de la República de Guatemala | via fax: 011 502 2251 2218 Juan Luis Florido Fiscal General de la República / Attorney General |
| via fax: 011 502 2362 0237 Carlos Vielman Ministro de Gobernación/Minister of the Interior | |

December 3, 2004

Dear Sirs:

We are outraged by the actions on November 21 of Finca Nueva Linda's security guards in forcibly evicting about 150 protesting workers from the farm in Southwest Guatemala. During the eviction, an unsuccessful attempt was made to seize the son of Hector Reyes Pérez, a community leader, who remains disappeared since September 5, 2003.

A police investigation into the disappearance of Hector Reyes Perez resulted in finding the farm owner and the head of security responsible, but to date no charges have been brought against them.

In protest, 200 rural workers from surrounding communities occupied part of the farm in October 2003 and were violently evicted by approximately 1,000 police on August 31, 2004. During that eviction, eight rural workers (including a pregnant woman and three children) and four policemen were killed, many were injured and 300 homes were destroyed. Workers re-occupied the farm on October 28 for several reasons: to protest the absence of charges of police misconduct, to demand compensation for the August 31 eviction, and to draw attention to the lack of progress in the investigation into the disappearance of Hector Reyes Pérez, that workers reoccupied the farm on October 28.

We are understandably concerned for the safety of Hector Reyes Perez' family and the workers evicted on November 21 and **we urge the government to**

- conduct a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the alleged violence and police inaction during the eviction;
- conduct an investigation into police use of excessive force during the August 31 eviction;
- conduct a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the abduction of Hector Reyes Pérez, make the results public, and bring those responsible to justice.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

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Robert Boynton, Guatemala Desk ~ via fax: 1 202 647 2597
US Senators Voinovich and Dewine
US Representatives Kucinich, Kaptur, LaTourette, Ryan, Tubbs Jones

UA 319/04 Guatemala

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