

VIA FACSIMILE: 011 502 23615914
Julio Cesar Godoy Anleu
Vice-Minister of the Interior

VIA FACSIMILE: 011 502 2230 5296
Rosa Maria Salazar Marroquin
Head of the Special Prosecutor's Office on Human Rights

January 23, 2006

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are deeply concerned for the safety of **Fredy Peccerelli**, head of the FAFG (Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation), his brother **Gianni Peccerelli**, his sister **Bianka Peccerelli Monterroso** and brother-in-law **Omar Giron de Leon**. All have received death threats lately and may be in grave danger.

We know that Fredy Peccerelli and other members of the FAFG have been subjected to numerous death threats as a result of their work to exhume mass graves of those killed by the Guatemalan military and their civilian adjuncts in the early 1980s. Although the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ordered that Fredy Peccerelli, members of his family and other members of the FAFG receive precautionary protection measures, this protection has been undependable. Death threats and attempts at intimidation continue.

These are not new threats. We previously wrote Guatemalan officials about threats to Fredy Peccerelli and others working with FAFG (May 26, 2003 and September 21, 2005).

In light of the facts presented, we strongly urge you to

- Take immediate steps to offer all the protection needed to Fredy Peccerelli, Gianni Peccerelli, Bianka Peccerelli Monterroso and Omar Giron de Leon
- Conduct an immediate and thorough investigation into the threats, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice
- See that the authorities involved account for their failure to conduct adequate investigations into previous threats against members of the FAFG.

We remind you of the right of human rights defenders to carry out their activities without any restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

For Peace with Justice,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

CC: Fundación de Antropología Forense de Guatemala ~ via fax
President of the Republic **Lic. Oscar Berger Perdomo** ~ via fax
Ambassador **Jose Guillermo Castillo** ~ via fax
Attorney General **Juan Luis Florido** ~ via fax
Minister of the Interior **Carlos Vielman** ~ 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

UA238/05 update GUATEMALA

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