

via fax 011 502 251 2218 Juan Luis Florido Fiscal General/Attorney General of Guatemala	via fax: 011 502 2362 0237 Carlos Vielman Minister of the Interior/Justice, Guatemala
Via fax: 011 502 2239 0090 Licenciado Oscar Berger Perdomo Presidente de la República de Guatemala	

February 12, 2006

Dear Sirs:

We are outraged at the murder of 21-year old **Adilio Darinel Domingo Montejo**, a law student at San Carlos University. On the evening of January 21 Darinel called his family to say he was out with friends and would be home the following day. His family never heard from him again. Five days later his corpse was identified, showing signs of torture and mutilation. One of his limbs was found later with his identification card nearby; those responsible wanted to make sure his body would be identified.

We suspect that Darinel's murder was politically motivated because of the involvement of several of his brothers in activities that challenge the status quo. His brother Mario Gonzalo Domingo Montejo is Coordinator of the Defense of Dignity department in the Guatemalan Archbishop's Human Rights Office (ODHAG). He is the lead lawyer representing the Catholic Church in the legal case against the murderers of Archbishop Juan José Gerardi. (Gerardi was murdered April 26, 1998, two days after the church released the Historical Memory report.) Mario is also married to Jessica Yarrow, who worked with NISGUA (Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala) until November 2005.

Darinel is another statistic in the high murder rate in Guatemala. Last year, 5330 people died violent deaths, the highest number since the war ended in 1996. Many politically-motivated murders are disguised as street crimes.

We urge you to

- conduct a full investigation into the murder of Adilio Darinel Domingo Montejo and bring those responsible to justice;
- take measures to end political violence and impunity.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: Dr. Sergio Fernando Morales Alvarado, Human Rights Ombudsman, Guatemala ~ via fax
Ambassador José Guillermo Castillo, Guatemalan Embassy in the US ~ via fax
Ambassador James Derham, US Embassy in Guatemala ~ via fax
Courtney Turner, Guatemala Desk Officer, US State Department ~ via fax
Guatemala Human Rights Commission-USA ~ via fax
NISGUA ~ via fax
U.S. Senators DeWine and Voinovich ~ via email
U.S. Representatives Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

GHRC_Montejo

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