

via fax 011 502 2361 5914
Julio Cesar Godoy Anleu
Vice-Minister of the Interior of Guatemala

via fax 011 502 230 5296
Rosa Maria Salazar Marroquin
Head of Special Prosecutor's Office on Human Rights

April 11, 2006

Dear Sir and Madam:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, because of new recent death threats, continue to be gravely concerned for the safety of **Fredy Peccerelli**, head of the Guatemala City-based Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG), his brother **Gianni Peccerelli**, his sister **Bianka Peccerelli Monterroso** and his brother-in-law **Omar Giron de León**, the laboratory coordinator for the FAFG.

On March 15, Fredy Peccerelli received a text message which threatened to kill his siblings. Fredy has told Amnesty International that the Public Prosecutor's Office has not advanced with the investigation into the death threats made in January:

- January 5: Jeannette, Fredy's former wife, was shopping with her two children, accompanied by the police officer protecting her, when an unidentified man began following them.
- January 9: Fredy received a death threat aimed at his brother.
- January 10: Bianka and Omar received a threatening letter.

The numerous death threats to Fredy Peccerelli and other members of the FAFG are a result of their work to exhume mass graves of those killed by the Guatemalan military and their civilian adjuncts in the early 1980s. In 2002, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) ordered that Bianka, Omar, Fredy and other members of the FAFG receive precautionary protection measures, but the level of protection had decreased just before the death threats last January. Although they have been given the personal protection of police presence since then, they report that it has been unreliable.

These are not new threats. We previously wrote Guatemalan officials about threats to Fredy Peccerelli, his family members and others working with FAFG (May 26, 2003, September 21, 2005, January 23, 2006).

We therefore urge that you

- take immediate measures to offer all the protection needed to the individuals named above and to the offices of FAFG in accordance with the 2002 order of the IACHR, according to their wishes;
- conduct an immediate and thorough investigation into the threats described above, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- account for the failure to conduct adequate investigations into previous threats against members of FAFG.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

CC via fax: Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation, President Oscar Berger Perdomo, Guatemalan Ambassador José Guillermo Castillo, Attorney General Juan Luis Florido, Minister of the Interior Carlos Vielman, U.S. Ambassador James Derham, Guatemala Desk Officer for the US State Department Courtney Turner
U.S. Senators DeWine and Voinovich ~ via email
U.S. Representatives Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, La Tourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

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