

via fax: 011 502 2251 9382 <b>Edwin Johann Spirisen, Director</b> National Civilian Police, Guatemala	via fax: 011 502 7844 4494 <b>Licda. Aura Marina Medrano Avila de Tobias, Director</b> Dept. of Education, Jutiapa Department
via fax: 011 502 78 44 1161 <b>Joaquin Mynor Coromac</b> Assistant Prosecutor, Jutiapa	via fax: 011 502 2334 0119 <b>Lic. Frank La Rue, Director</b> Presidential Commission on Human Rights

April 26, 2006

Dear Sirs and Madam:

We are extremely concerned for the life of **Claudia Jeannette Rivas Rosil**, a teacher and the Departmental Secretary of the Guatemalan Union of Educational Workers (STEG) in Jutiapa Department, and also for the safety of her family, including her seven children. A man with a gun approached her in Jutiapa City on March 20; fortunately, she drove away unharmed.

Claudia has received previous threats because of her work with STEG, her denunciation of corruption within the Jutiapa Dept. Ministry of Education and complaints against the Central Education Authority in Guatemala City. On July 19, 2005 she was held for four hours by three men who abducted her and threatened to kill her. She is also in danger for seeking justice in the death of her brother German Adolfo Rivas Rosil, former STEG representative for Jutiapa; his body was found five months after his disappearance in August 2005. Police and unmarked cars with no license plates and tinted windows are outside her house and she receives anonymous threats over the phone. Because she has to teach in the remote village of Tunas, we fear that she might be harmed in her daily commute.

Although Claudia Rivas has reported all these incidents to the Public Prosecutor's Office in Jutiapa, no apparent steps have been taken to identify who is behind the threats. Protection measures by the Guatemalan government, ordered for her on March 23 by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, have not been implemented.

In light of these facts, **we strongly urge you to**

- guarantee the safety of Claudia Rivas and her family, in accordance with her wishes and in accordance with the ruling of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on March 23;
- ensure that the Ministry of Education immediately recognize Claudia Rivas's elected position in the local education authority and allow her to be relieved of her teaching duties during the two-year period of her office;
- conduct a thorough investigation into the killing of German Adolfo Rivas Rosil, make the results public and bring the perpetrators to justice.

For Peace With Justice,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

- Copies: Offices of STEG ~ fax  
 Ambassador José Guillermo Castillo ~ fax  
 Attorney General Juan Luis Florido ~ fax  
 Minister of the Interior Carlos Vielman ~ fax  
 President Oscar Berger Perdomo ~ fax  
 Ambassador James Derham ~ fax  
 Courtney Tumer, Guatemala Desk US State Dept. ~ via fax  
 U.S. Senators DeWine and Voinovich ~ via email  
 U.S. Representatives Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

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