

via fax 011 502 2413 8888
Carlos Vinicio Gómez Ruiz
 Minister of the Interior of Guatemala

via fax 011 502 2230 6033
Rosa Maria Salazar Marroquin
 Head of Special Prosecutor's Office on Human Rights

June 1, 2008

Dear Sir and Madam:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are again compelled to write regarding our grave concern for the safety of **Fredy Peccerelli**, head of the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG), his brother, **Gianni Peccerelli**; his sister, **Bianka Peccerelli Monterroso**; her husband, **Omar Bertoni Giron**, who is also the laboratory coordinator for the FAFG; **José Suasnavar**, FAFG deputy director; and **Leonel Paiz**, head of the FAFG archaeology department.

On May 19, Fredy Peccerelli received an email threatening to kill him, his sister and four leading members of the FAFG. The death threat was also sent to Bianka Peccerelli Monterroso, Omar Bertoni Giron, José Suasnavar and Leonel Paiz. We strongly believe these threats 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 addition, the prominence of the court proceedings in Guatemala City on behalf of the Spanish courts hearing a genocide case against high-ranking members of the military junta of the early 1980s has brought renewed attention to the work of Fredy Peccerelli and other members of the FAFG.

On May 20, the judge presiding over the hearing in Guatemala, Eduardo Cojulun, stated publicly that on the weekend of May 17-18 he had received telephone threats about his role in the hearing.

These threats to the FAFG are not new. We have previously written several times to Guatemalan officials about threats to Fredy Peccerelli, his family members and others working with FAFG (May 26, 2003, February 21, 2005, January 23, 2006, April 11, 2006, February 14, 2008). Government protection provided at the request of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (2002) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (2006) has been inadequate.

We therefore urge that you

- order an immediate and thorough investigation into the threats described above to Fredy Peccerelli, members of his family and FAFG, as well as those received on February 2, 2008, identify those responsible and bring them to justice without further delay;
- take immediate measures to offer all the protection needed to the individuals named above and to the offices of FAFG in accordance with the requests made by both the Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Court on Human Rights.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation ~ via fax: 011 502 2288 7297/7302
 Ambassador Jose Guillermo Castillo, Embassy of Guatemala in the US ~ via fax: 202 745 1908
 Ambassador James Derham, US Embassy in Guatemala ~ via fax: 011-502-2334-8477
 Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ fax: (202)458-3992
 Guatemala Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-2597
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
 US Representatives Latta, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA 238/05 Update Guatemala

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