

<p>Fax: 011 502 2221 4423 Lic. Alvaro Colom President of the Republic of Guatemala</p>	<p>Fax: 011 502 2413 8658 Sr. Francisco Jose Jimenez Irungaray Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Guatemala</p>
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November 16, 2008

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to express our serious concern for the safety of **Norma Cruz**, Director of Survivors' (Sobrevivientes) Foundation, **her family and her colleagues**.

On October 19 at about 12:00 noon, a relative of Norma Cruz, walking home in Guatemala City, was stopped by an unknown man driving a pick-up truck. The driver told this relative to ". . . get in or you're going to die." They drove her relative around repeating "you're going to die." After 20 minutes, the relative was released one block away from Norma Cruz's home. During the morning of October 23, this same relative received three phone calls. In the first one, a male voice said "are you comfortable. . . you're going to die," after which the call was cut off. The following two calls were cut off when the relative answered. Later that day a green pick-up truck with tinted windows was parked in front of the offices of Sobrevivientes Foundation. Staff members were suspicious and approached the vehicle to talk to the driver, who immediately drove off.

Sobrevivientes Foundation provides psychological support to women victims of sexual violence and other forms of domestic violence. It also provides legal assistance in cases of killings of women and has investigated high-profile cases of trafficking of people in which government officials could be involved. The Foundation believes these acts of intimidation are related to a particular case they are currently supporting.

We believe that Norma Cruz, her colleagues and relatives are very much at risk. We remind you that human rights defenders have the right 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.

In light of the acts of intimidation described above, **we strongly urge that you**

- take immediate and on-going measures to guarantee the safety of Norma Cruz, her family and colleagues in strict accordance with their wishes;
- order an immediate, thorough and swift investigation into the incidents described above, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: Fundacion Sobrevivientes ~ via mail
Francisco Villagran de Leon, Guatemalan Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 745 1908
Stephen McFarland, US Ambassador to Guatemala ~ via fax: 011-502-2334-8477
Courtney Turner, Guatemala Desk Officer US Department of State ~ via fax: 202-647-2597
Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ via fax: 202-458-3992
US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
US Representenatives Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Regula, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

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