

via fax 011 502 2411 9124 Lic. Jose Amilcar Velasquez Zarate Attorney General and Head of Public Prosecutor's Office, Guatemala	via fax 011 502 2334 0119 Lic. Ruth del Valle Cobar President of the Presidential Commission on Human Rights, Guatemala
via fax 011 502 2413 8658 Lic. Salvador Gandara Gaitan Minister of the Interior of Guatemala	

April 2, 2009

Dear Sirs and Madam:

We are outraged at the kidnapping on March 25 in Guatemala City of **Gladys Monterroso**, who is a lawyer, university professor, Secretary General of the Encuentro por Guatemala party, and wife of Human Rights Ombudsman Sergio Morales. During the 13 hours before her release, she was interrogated and burned with cigarettes on different parts of her body. This violent attack occurred just eleven hours after the Human Rights Ombudsman released the first report on the contents of the Historical Archives of the National Police. The archives had been discovered in 2004.

The report includes information connecting the Guatemalan National Police to atrocities committed during the internal armed conflict (civil war of 1960-96) and provided the evidence needed to detain two former members of a police unit linked to death squads that operated during the internal armed conflict. This is the first time that police officers have been detained for involvement in any of the over 47,000 cases of forced disappearances during the 36 year conflict.

In light of this information, **we strongly urge that you**

- fully investigate the kidnapping and torture of Gladys Monterroso and bring the perpetrators to justice;
- provide protection for Gladys Monterroso and the staff of the Human Rights Ombudsman throughout Guatemala to allow them to carry out their work;
- ensure that the Historical Archives of the National Police are secure and protected;
- take the necessary steps to dismantle the criminal structures that interfere with citizens' rights, liberties, and guarantees under the Guatemalan Constitution.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

CC: 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
 Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ via fax: (202)458-3992
 Skye Justice, Guatemala Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-2597
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
 US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson, ~ via email

GHRC/USA Guatemala

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