

via fax 011 52 55 5093 5321 Lic. Felipe de Jesus Calderon Hinojosa President of Mexico	via fax 011 502 2221 4445 Ing. Alvaro Colom Caballeros President of Guatemala
via fax 011 52 993 314 2612 Q.F.B. Andres Granier Melo Governor of Tabasco, Mexico	

December 2, 2011

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply concerned for the safety and well-being of the **community of Nueva Esperanza that was forcibly displaced** from their land in Petén Department in Guatemala and now live in Tabasco State, Mexico. On August 23, without prior warning, Guatemalan Army and National Police forced 300 members of this community off their land. They were given no alternative housing. The reason given for the eviction was that their land was an environmental conservation area. The community's houses, school and church were burnt down. The residents fled over the border to the Mexican community of Nuevo Progreso, Tabasco State, where they have been living in makeshift huts without adequate access to food, clean water, or medical services.

Because of the violence and speed of the eviction, members of the community, which includes over 100 children and several pregnant women, were unable to gather their belongings. Consequently, the conditions under which they are now living have led to illness and infections. As winter approaches, with prolonged rainfall, the health of the community is of increasing concern. We believe that this community is caught between the Mexican authorities who have failed to ensure the community's safe living conditions and the Guatemalan government which has only offered the community a much smaller plot of land and refused to provide them with reparations for the land and property they have lost.

Based on the facts presented above, **we urge**

- Guatemalan authorities to conduct a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the forced eviction of the Nueva Esperanza community;
- Mexican authorities to provide the Nueva Esperanza community with urgent humanitarian assistance including access to food, clean water, adequate housing and education and to facilitate quick negotiations leading to the safe and fair return of the community to Guatemala;
- Guatemalan authorities to resolve the dispute and grant the Nueva Esperanza community adequate alternative land and housing in accordance with their wishes, with access to shelter, food, water, and healthcare services in a location where their physical integrity can be guaranteed.

At the present time, the members of the community of Nueva Esperanza are suffering greatly. You have the power to undo the injustices to which they have been subjected. We strongly urge you to use that power to its full extent.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

CC: Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 728 1698
 Earl Anthony Wayne US Ambassador to Mexico ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5080-2834
 Greg Sprow, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202.647.5752
 Francisco Villagran de Leon, Guatemalan Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 745 1908
 Stephen McFarland, US Ambassador to Guatemala ~ via fax: 011-502-2331-2348
 Siobhan Sheils, Guatemala Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-2597
 Christopher Johnson, Diplomacy Officer for Central America, US State Dept. ~ via email
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: (202)458-3992
 José de Jesús Orozco Henríquez, Mexico member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: (202)458-3992
 US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

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