

<p>via fax: 011 503 2243 6860 Excmo. Sr. Mauricio Funes President of El Salvador</p>	<p>via fax: 011 503 2246 4950 Sr. Luis Martínez Attorney General of El Salvador</p>
<p>via US mail Sr. David Munguía Payes Minister of Justice and Public Security of El Salvador</p>	<p>via fax: 011 503 2244 2802 Sr. Cruz Edgardo Torres Director of Sexual Diversity Department of Social Inclusion of El Salvador</p>

May 16, 2013

Dear Sirs:

We are outraged by the assassination of transgender teenager Tania de Perla on May 4. She was a member of the working team of the transgender organization COMCAVIS Trans, which is based in San Salvador.

Paty Hernández, who works for ASPIDH-Arcoiris (another transgender organization), identified Tania at the coroner's office. She had read a brief report in the newspaper that said the body of a "transvestite" had been found. Paty Hernández went to the coroner's office—not knowing it was her colleague Tania who had been killed—and asked to see the body. The coroner was ready to bury Tania in an unmarked grave until Paty Hernández arrived and identified her.

The LGBT community—and the transgender community, in particular—are concerned about the wave of violence against their members. They point to prejudiced remarks by public officials and political parties that lead to hateful attitudes against the LGBT community. The climate of hate leads to discrimination, social exclusion, violence and assassinations. Impunity for human rights violators is pervasive. More than 40 LGBT persons have been assassinated in the past three years. The guilty are rarely caught or prosecuted.

A group of thirteen people from Cleveland, organized by the InterReligious Task Force on Central America, traveled to El Salvador in March. We met with members of COMCAVIS Trans, ASPIDH-Arcoiris and other LGBT organizations. We participated in the LGBT human rights conference at the University of Central America, which was organized by ALDES (Anti-Homophobia League of El Salvador) March 14-16, 2013. We were encouraged by the number of people from various professional backgrounds and constituencies who spoke in favor of human rights for all people in El Salvador, including LGBT persons.

Because LGBT persons are victims of social exclusion and violence, we **strongly urge** that you

- collaborate with LGBT organizations to establish measures of anti-discrimination and personal security;
- investigate the assassination of Tania de Perla, publish the results, and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Mari Carmen Aponte, US Ambassador to El Salvador ~ via fax: 011-503-2501-2775
 Francisco Altshul, El Salvador Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 1-202-234-3834
 Jonathan Nellis, El Salvador Desk at US State Dept. ~ via email
 Christopher Johnson, Diplomacy Officer for Central America, US State Dept. ~ via email
 Rosa Maria Ortiz, Rapporteur for El Salvador, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202.458.3992
 US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

COMCAVIS_May 7_ El Salvador

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