

The following people hereby urge that you take immediate action on this matter as indicated in this letter.

# IRTF

InterReligious Task Force on Central America

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via email: <a href="mailto:hpineda@mp.gob.gt">hpineda@mp.gob.gt</a> <b>Licda. Hilda Pineda</b> Prosecutor Human Rights Section of the Public Ministry	via email: <a href="mailto:fiscalgeneralmp@gmail.com">fiscalgeneralmp@gmail.com</a> <b>Lica. María Consuelo Porras Argueta</b> Attorney General of Guatemala
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June 22, 2021

Dear Prosecutor Pineda and Attorney General Porras:

We are deeply disturbed by the **assassinations of Cecy Ixpata** and **Andrea González**, two transgender women leaders of the LGBTQ community, in two separate attacks just two days apart.

On June 9, Cecy Caricia Ixpata, a member of the trans rights group *Otrans Reinas de la Noche* (Queens of the Night) died in a hospital in Salamá, Baja Verapaz Department, from sustained injuries suffered in a violent attack. A years-long member of the advocacy group *Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Personas Trans* (RedLacTrans), Cecy Ixpata was found beaten inside a local produce market, found fighting for her life by a fruit and vegetable merchant.

On June 11, Andrea González, a 28-year-old who was the legal representative of *Otrans Reinas de la Noche*, was shot dead only meters from her home between 11th Avenue and Second Street in zone two of Guatemala City. Andrea González worked as a trans activist and leader of an initiative of the Regional Human Rights Project. She was also a fellow of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and a collaborator with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). In addition, Andrea González was a member of Cristosal, a research-led human rights group in Central America.

We strongly urge that the government of Guatemala

- conduct thorough and transparent investigations into the murders of Cecy Ixpata and Andrea González, publish the results and bring the perpetrators to justice
- issue a statement to condemn the murders and correct the misgendering of the two victims as reported in local media outlets
- enter into a dialogue with *Otrans Reinas de la Noche* and other LGBTQ advocacy organizations to advance the human rights and personal security of LGBTQ people throughout Guatemala

Sincerely,



Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Co-coordinators



Christine Stonebraker Martínez

copies: Alfonso José Quiñónez Lemus, Ambassador of Guatemala to the US ~ email, US mail  
Lic. Augusto Jordán Rodas Andrade, Prosecutor for Human Rights, Guatemala ~ via email  
IAHCR: Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño, Rapporteur for Guatemala, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email and US mail  
IAHCR: Flávia Piovesan, Rapporteur on the Rights of LGBTI Persons, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email and US mail  
OACNUDH: Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos en Guatemala ~ via email  
US State Department: Guatemala Desk in Washington, DC; William Popp, US Ambassador to Guatemala, in care of human rights officer Sarahann Yeh ~ via email  
US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email  
US Representatives Beatty, Gibbs, Gonzalez, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Ryan ~ via email

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