

GUATEMALA: Death Threats Against Lawyer End

UA 05/05 GUATEMALA: Armando Sanchez (lawyer) death threats

On January 22, 2005 RRN members wrote to Guatemalan officials on behalf of attorney Armando Sanchez. **He received death threats as a result of his work providing legal representation** for people involved in several cases against local government officials, drug traffickers and in labor disputes between rural workers and their employees.

On December 23, 2004 an anonymous caller to Armando Sanchez's mobile phone told him he would be killed if he did not leave the country within five days. He reported the death threat and was given 24-hour police protection. At 2am on December 26, three men came to the area where he lives, knocked on a neighbor's door and asked where Armando Sanchez's house was. They did not approach the house, since there were two police officers outside. The 24-hour police protection lasted for a week, and was then reduced to three hours per night.

GOOD NEWS!

On June 21, 2005 Armando Sanchez told Amnesty International that he is no longer receiving any threats nor police protection. Although the authorities began investigations into the threat (as requested by RRN members), no substantial progress has been made and no one has been brought to justice.