

July 8, 2005

CEIBA LEADER THREATENED

Mario Antonio Godínez López, General Coordinator of the Association for the Promotion and Development of the Community (CEIBA), has received a serious threat. On July 7 at 7:40 A.M, the following faxed message arrived at his office in the town of Buena Vista, Chimaltenango:

Huehuetenango, June 29, 2005
URGENT NOTICE

Mario Godínez

We inform you that the latest destabilizing actions carried out by your organization have provoked discontent and indignation in the organizations working for peace in the department.

We recommend:

That you abstain from carrying out meetings of more than twenty people in any place because we will understand this as an act of new provocation and we will react in response to your destabilizing actions.

We recommend a great deal of prudence in what you plan from here on out in the communities and in the department.

Sincerely Yours,

HUEHUETENANGO GROUP OF ACTION FOR PEACE

Background

CEIBA supports and coordinates work on various issues with a number of organizations. Mario Godínez has recently coordinated and strengthened work against mining concessions authorized for nineteen communities in Huehuetenango. He has also been very active in the struggle against the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement. His organization participated in the demonstration against DR-CAFTA in March that left one campesino with injuries requiring the amputation of a leg (CEIBA is continues to provide him with medical assistance), and one teacher dead, the victim of an extrajudicial execution. CEIBA is supporting the Campesino Unity Committee, a co-plaintiff in the law suit related to the teacher's

murder. On March 16, the day after the demonstration, unidentified, armed men went to Godínez's office and asked for the director of CEIBA or the deputy director of CEIBA. Mario Godínez was not in the country at the time. In April, Godínez traveled to the United States to lobby against DR-CAFTA with a delegation led by Monsignor Ramazzini, the Archbishop of San Marcos, who has also been threatened with death. On that occasion a Guatemalan congressman accused Godínez of having links to parallel powers in Guatemala. Mario Godínez has currently left his workplace to protect himself.

Requested Action

Contact the Guatemalan authorities and express serious concern about the threat received by Mario Godínez . Urge them to:

- Guarantee the safety of Mario Godínez and his family and all others who work with with CEIBA, according to their wishes.
- Investigate the threat thoroughly and prosecute those responsible.
- Ensure that CEIBA can proceed with its peaceful, legitimate work.

APPEALS TO:

Presidente de la República de Guatemala
Licenciado Óscar Berger Perdomo
Casa Presidencial, 6 a. Avenida, 4-18 zona 1
Ciudad de Guatemala
GUATEMALA
Email: presidente@scspr.gob.gt
Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President
Fax: 502 2251 2218
Salutation: Estimado Fiscal General/Dear Sir

Attorney General
Juan Luis Florido
Fiscal General Fiscalia General del Ministerio Publico
8a. Avenida 10-67, Zona 1
Ciudad Guatemala
GUATEMALA
Fax: 011 502 251 2218
Salutation: Estimado Fiscal General/Dear Sir

Minister of the Interior
Ministro de Gobernacion
Carlos Vielman
6a.Avenida 4-64, zona 4, nivel 3
Ciudad de Guatemala

Guatemala
Fax: 011 502 2362 0237
Email: ministro@mingob.gob.gt
Salutation: Senor Ministro/ Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Ambassador Jose Guillermo Castillo
Embassy of Guatemala
2220 R St. NW
Washington DC 20008
Fax: 1 202 745 1908
email: ambassador@guatemala-embassy.org

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.

Guatemala Human Rights Commission- USA
GHRC-USA
3321 12th St, NE
Washington, DC 20017
202-529-6599
202-526-4611 fax
ghrc-usa@ghrc-usa.org
www.ghrc-usa.org