



Guatemala Human Rights **UPDATE**

Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA

Vol 17 No 7/ April 1, 2005

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Guatemala City Judge Murdered

3/22/05 - Judge JOSE ANTONIO CRUZ HERNÁNDEZ was gunned down on March 21 at 3:30 PM as he was driving his pickup truck through Zone 7 of Guatemala City.

The Municipal Fire Department stated that the judge had received a bullet wound to the head. Next to his pickup truck, which slammed into two other cars, a spent 9mm shell was recovered.

Police indicated that Cruz tried to flee from his pursuers but, upon being overtaken by them, he lost control of the pickup and crashed into two vehicles waiting to turn at a stoplight.

The family of the judge said that he was driving en route to his home. "We had no idea that he was being threatened," said one family member.

The president of the Judges and Magistrates Association, Jackeline Espana, did not rule out the possibility of a politically motivated killing.

Witness in Corruption Case is Assassinated

3/22/05 - JUAN JOSE DE LEON PINEDA was murdered by a group of unknown individuals who shot him six times as he was waiting at the corner of 1st street and 34th avenue in Colonia Villa Victoria, in zone 6 of Mixco, just outside of Guatemala City.

De Leon Pineda, testified before the District Attorney's Office Against Corruption on two corruption cases. In the case regarding the embezzlement of millions of dollars from the Army, his testimony indicated the he was boss of the Army Finances and in charge of signing checks that were due to be processed, which were later to be given in cash to some of the individuals involved in the theft.

According to versions given by witnesses at the scene of the crime, the murder victim was approached by several individuals who got out of a green car and shot the victim.

Police Involved in Death of Gang Members

3/31/2005 - Twenty year-old HUGO FRANSISCO CASTILLO was executed on Tuesday the 29 in Villa Nueva, presumably by agents of the Criminal Investigation Service, according to one of his friends who reported the crime. "They took him away at 3:00 and brought him back in serious condition, they had beaten him until he was nearly dead."

The friend related that the police tried to prevent the Fire Department from taking him to the hospital. He along with Castillo's wife placed Castillo in an ambulance headed for a hospital where he died two hours later. The police refute the charges and attribute the deaths to gang related vengeance.

According to the Association Against the Prevention of Crime (APREDE), the death of two former gang members in rehabilitation is part of a plan of social cleansing. Since January policed have killed eight youth involved in APREDE's rehabilitation processes, according to Emilio Goubaud, director of APREDE; who estimates that daily some twenty youth are executed throughout the entire country. From the manner in which they were murdered Goubaud considers organized crime groups, as well as the National Civil Police (PNC), to be involved.

DEATH THREATS AND OTHER INTIMIDATIONS

Assassination Plan Revealed

3/18/05 - On March 17, media sources revealed that Interior Minister Carlos Vielmann received a twelve-page report on an alleged plan to assassinate four prominent Guatemalans. Included in the report was Nineth Montenegro, a congresswoman for the progressive New Nation Alliance party and a founder of the human rights organization Mutual Support Group (GAM). She has dedicated herself to ensuring the auditing of several military institutions in which corruption and misuse of funds have

been uncovered. Several military officers have been accused of stealing hundreds of millions of quetzals. Gonzalo Marroquin, a well-known journalist and businessman who is president of the Inter-American Press Society and director of the Guatemalan daily *Prensa Libre*, was also threatened. At risk is, Otto Pérez Molina, retired army general and current congressman and secretary general of the Patriot Party. The last leader mentioned was Monsignor Alvaro Ramazzini, Bishop of San Marcos, who has publicly expressed concern about the dangers of mining and has also accompanied campesinos in their struggles for land. Ramazzini was previously the target of an alleged assassination plan.

Pérez Molina told the Guatemalan press that he had been alerted last week to the plan, which is laid out in a twelve-page document that contains information on the routines of each person and other data gained through surveillance.

Agence France Press obtained a copy of the anonymous document, which is now in the hands of the Presidential Human Rights Commission. The document explains that Pérez should be eliminated so that the Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman can enter Guatemala and conduct his operations from there. The document notes that it was Pérez who captured "El Chapo" during the government of former president Ramiro de León Carpio and personally handed him in to the Mexican authorities.

According to Guatemalan press reports, supposed drug traffickers were behind the plan to assassinate all four leaders, but their motives were not clear.

In a statement, however, GAM said the following: "It is evident that a threat of this sort comes from the clandestine structures that never were dissolved and that now are at the service of powerful sectors. These structures are made up of those who violated human rights in the recent past and today seek the manner to enrich themselves and prevent the investigation of their crimes."

GAM also stated that the Minister of the Interior, as the official in charge of guaranteeing citizens' security, should not have publicly revealed this sort of threat. GAM noted that the announcement of the death list provokes more vulnerability and fear in Guatemalan society because it is evident that the security forces do not have the capacity to combat crime. GAM asked the minister to do the following, instead of making statements with no positive results: dismantle and prevent any assassination plan that may be underway, arrest the intellectual and material

authors, and punish them in an exemplary manner. GAM asked the government, especially the Minister of the Interior, to guarantee the security of the four people threatened with death and to solve the case as quickly as possible.

Another Attack Against CALDH Staff

3/18/05 - On March 16, when the driver and courier for the Center for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH) was leaving the office of Maya Organization Council in Guatemala City, he was intercepted by three armed men, told to get out of the car, and give them his keys.

CALDH believes the act to be political violence, especially since Galicia was followed by a white van with tinted windows parked behind the pickup truck he was driving. The three men insisted that he tell them the name of the place where he worked and then threatened to kill him. Upon telling them that he worked in CALDH, he was told, "Nothing is going to happen to you, don't worry."

Approximately every six months CALDH staff have experienced similar intimidations. On March 11, 2004, CALDH members were threatened, followed by another event on September 11, 2004, and then the most recent occurrence on March 16, 2005. The previous acts have not been investigated much less the people responsible for them brought to justice.

CALDH does not consider the acts to be casual acts of violence; instead, they pertain to the same politics of kidnapping, harassment, and intimidation reverberating in the same activities that they investigate.

Curiously, two hours after the incident, security guards from Security Golan arrived at the CALDH offices for the third time in recent weeks, allegedly responding to an alarm. They later admitted that they had again been mistaken and had been dispatched to the wrong address.

Journalists at CAFTA Protests Threatened

3/18/05 - Journalists Marielos Monzón and Gabriel Mazzarovich have been subjected to death threats and intimidation, in what appears to be an effort to force them to stop reporting on demonstrations by groups including farmers, indigenous communities, and teachers, who say the recently ratified Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) will destroy their livelihood. At 12:50 pm on March 17, Marielos Monzón received three consecutive phone calls on her mobile phone, but nobody spoke when she answered. The calls appeared to have been

made from her own house, but when she phoned home her family said nobody had called her. Minutes later she received another phone call, also supposedly from her house, and this time a man apparently said, "Stop defending those stinking Indians you bitch or we will kill you."

A few minutes later she received another phone call, this time from the Embassy of Uruguay, asking for confirmation that Gabriel Mazzarovich, who is a Uruguayan citizen, had died. Two Uruguayan newspapers had apparently reported his death. The news was unfounded, and Amnesty International believes the stories were placed in the newspapers to intimidate Gabriel Mazzarovich. Marielos Monzón and Gabriel Mazzarovich are colleagues on the radio program "Good morning with Marielos Monzón," broadcast on Radio Universidad station, which is based in Guatemala City.

Radio Universidad had recently broadcast two special programs on the violence that took place during demonstrations against CAFTA. Protesters were allegedly violently repressed by the units of the police and the army during demonstrations in the municipality of Colotenango, department of Huehuetenango, in the north-east of the country, and the capital, Guatemala City. At least one protester was killed and approximately ten injured. (See "Protests against CAFTA Continue" below.)

Journalist from Zacapa Reports Threats

3/28/05 - Journalist JUAN CARLOS AQUINO, host of the local newscast Punto Informativo, has received death threats due to his reports of corruption and abuse of power in the municipal administration in Zacapa, directed by Elder Vargas, of the Civic Committee El Tuno.

According to Aquino, he received a threat over the telephone on March 8 from someone who warned him that he would die if he continued to make public claims about corruption in the municipal administration.

On March 21 and 22, after circulating information about the existence of ghost positions in the municipality meant to facilitate embezzlement, he received two calls in which the individual indicated that if he continued to talk about the corruption he would be killed.

Anti-Mining Group Reports Death Threats

3/30/05 - The National Front Against Mining (FNRM) reported that Dominga Vasquez, the indigenous mayor of Sololá, her husband Alfonso Guarquez, a journalist, and his brother Carlos Guarquez, a staff member of the Maya

Foundation, are receiving threats and intimidations due to their work resisting detrimental mining activities in Guatemala.

On the night of March 25, in the village of El Tabón, Sololá, unknown persons attempted to burn the vehicle Carlos Guarquez used at the Maya Foundation. Left behind were flyers that read "The same will happen to you Mr. Carlos Humberto for interfering in these stupid social issues, tomorrow will be your day to disappear from this world. Every pig eventually gets slaughtered, also Ms. Dominga [Vasquez] and her husband Alfonso Guarquez."

The FNRM believes this act is part of a larger plot by the present government to criminalize movements that resist current neo-liberal policies. (See Urgent Action insert for details.)

2005: Twelve Judges Threatened

3/23/05 - After the March 21 murder of Justice of the Peace of de San Pedro Ayampuc, José Antonio Cruz Hernández, the Association of Judges and Magistrates announced that so far in 2005 twelve justice workers have received death threats.

FUNDAMENTAL VIOLATIONS

Mining Company Guards Kill Campesino

3/29/05 - Two Guatemalan security workers for the Marlin Project of the Montana Mining Company, a subsidiary of the Canadian-US company Glamis Gold Ltd., killed campesino ALVARO BENIGNO the night of March 13 in San Miguel Ixtahuacan municipality, San Marcos department, according to the Campesino Workers Movement (MTC), a local community-based organization.

Witnesses said Benigno was returning home after attending a choral concert in the parish church when Ludwin Waldemar Calderon and Guillermo Lanuza, workers for the Grupo Golan company, which provides security for the Marlin Project, came out of a bar, went to Alvaro Benigno, and hit him. A scuffle ensued, and Calderon shot Benigno five or six times with a handgun. He was taken to the National Hospital in Huehuetenango, where he died.

Since the crime, the manager of the Grupo Golan company telephoned the family of the victim a number of times to offer them money in an attempt to keep the news quiet and so that the family does not begin a legal process

against the company.

The victim, Alvaro Benigno, was twenty-three years old and leaves behind him his pregnant wife and a three year-old child. This killing takes place in a very tense climate, when the local population is organizing against the gold mining operation; this killing comes in the aftermath of serious protests against the Glamis Gold company earlier this year. During one protest against Glamis Gold in January, a protestor was killed by Guatemala government forces. To date, no one has been detained by the authorities for this most recent killing.

Death in Clash with Police over Water Rights

3/31/05 - One individual, MICAELA CHAN RENOJ, was killed and three more were injured on March 29 in a confrontation between police and local townspeople in the village of Chajabal, in San Andres Xecul. The incident started about 9:00 AM when judge Jesus Otoniel Baquix followed an order to connect a water tank to tubing in order to supply some 600 people.

Various locals and townspeople opposed the order and attacked the police that were accompanying Judge Baquix. The police threw tear gas and fired shots. One of the shots hit Chan Renoj; three others were wounded.

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Berger Asks US to Stop Gang Deportations

3/18/05 - The governments of El Salvador and Guatemala requested that the US stop deporting gang members detained in the US for criminal acts and asked that they carry out their sentences in US prisons. "It's a very heavy load on our security forces. We want them to pay the penalty over there," declared Óscar Berger, after making the request official with the Salvadoran President Antonio Saca. The request marks the beginning of a binational security project put forth to prevent criminal acts along the border areas of Guatemala and El Salvador.

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

Mayans Celebrate Day Against Discrimination

3/21/05 - As part of activities aimed at the eradication of racial discrimination in Guatemala, indigenous groups organized a reflective meeting, the purpose of which was to

form a basis for the institutionalization of the Consciousness Tribunal Against Discrimination and Racism.

Juana Batzibal, from the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Program for the Center for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH), indicated that the event forms part of Solidarity Week, the driving force behind the Presidential Commission Against Discrimination and Racism of Indigenous Peoples (CODISRA). The event is part of the larger International Day Against Discrimination, an event aimed towards strengthening existing efforts in the area of Human Rights. The event was celebrated on March 28.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Protests against CAFTA Continue

3/30/05 - Protests against the signing of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) continue and are set to continue as long as the Guatemalan Government fails to consider demonstrators' demands, which include the guarantee for the protection of human rights, demilitarization, and an investigation into the murder of a protestor at the hands of state security forces. Other primary demands are that neither the Law of Concessions, which would allow for the privatization of basic social services, nor CAFTA are passed and that both the interior minister and the head of the police are fired.

Numerous protests, blockades, and strikes have been held to protest the March 10 ratification by Congress of the CAFTA. On March 14, thousands of Guatemalans demonstrated around the country in a national strike called by the Indigenous, Campesino, Union and Popular Movement (MICSP) to demand that President Oscar Berger not sign the measure (which he did on the following day). The agreement joins Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the US in a trade bloc. Guatemala's legislature approved the agreement by a vote of 126-12, with twenty lawmakers absent. Demonstrations were held throughout the country.

Protests continued around the country March 15-16. One demonstrator was killed when police and soldiers tried to break up a highway blockade at Puente Naranjales in Colotenango. The police used tear gas and smoke bombs on the protesters. A group of campesinos began hurling rocks on to the agents from cliffs overlooking the highway, and the police responded with bullets. Juan Lopez Velasquez, a teacher and member of the

Campesino Unity Committee (CUC) and the leftist Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), was apparently beaten by the police and then killed with a shot to the head at point blank range. There were a number of wounded among the campesinos.

A statement issued by the MICSP charged that the repression of the CAFTA protests "is reminiscent of the darkest years of the country's recent history," a reference to the counterinsurgency of the 1980s. "Now Guatemala isn't suffering from a military dictatorship, but it suffers instead from a dictatorship of business interests." Human rights, religious, solidarity, and academic groups from the US, Canada, Austria, and Japan expressed their concern regarding the use of violence and aggression by Guatemalan security forces in an open letter. Not only describing concern regarding the death of a campesino, the letter also details that the use of the military in internal security is a violation of the 1996 Peace Accords.

The US Congress is also questioning the militaries' repressive tactics. Eleven US lawmakers urged the Guatemalan government to fully investigate fatal violence by security forces against protesters. "Given the long history of the Guatemalan state's violent responses to protest, we regard official claims that police were fired upon and that the heavy-handed response was necessary ... with a healthy degree of skepticism," the ten Democrats and one independent said in a letter to Guatemala's ambassador to the United States. In their letter, the members of the US House of Representatives said "protesters were shot and killed by police when they fired live rounds to disperse a march of teachers and farmers near Huehuetenango."

President Berger has announced that the government would like to begin a dialogue process with protesting groups and indicated that he has asked Cardinal Rodolfo Quezada of the Catholic Church to act as a witness to the peace process. Rights groups, like the MISCOP, suggest that the call for dialogue is a ploy of the government to quiet demonstrators since groups have been calling for a dialogue all along. This seems to be bolstered by Berger's comments a few days later: "I offered that we sit at the table and discuss but not with conditions because we are in country where the Right of the State must be respected as we decide to do it... If they don't want [to talk], then the Law will be applied... Since we received a mandate when we won the elections, we are acting as the Right of the State."

Sergio Morales announced that the Human Rights

Ombudsman's Office has begun an investigation into the National Civil Police's potential abuse of authority. Coincidentally, the US has just approved that \$3.2 million in aid to the Guatemalan military be resumed since its suspension in 1990 due to human rights abuses. (See "US Resumes Military Aid to Guatemala" below.)

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Reduced Sentences for Gerardi's Murderers 3/22/05 - An appeals court reduced prison sentences by ten years against two former soldiers in the 1998 killing of Juan Gerardi, a human rights crusading Roman Catholic bishop.

In June 2001, a three-judge panel convicted retired Col. Byron Lima Estrada and his son, Capt. Byron Lima Oliva, in the killing of Gerardi, who was bludgeoned to death with a concrete block in the garage of his Guatemala City seminary in April 1998. Lima Estrada and Lima Oliva were assigned co-responsibility in the killing and sentenced to thirty years behind bars, but lawyers successfully argued on appeal that more than one person cannot be convicted of a killing according to Guatemalan law.

Reclassified on March 22 as "accomplices" in the slaying, the two men received revised sentences of twenty years each from a three-judge panel. Lima Oliva protested the revised sentence, arguing before reporters that his prosecution was motivated by politics. While prosecutors could appeal the decision to the Supreme Court, Guatemala's second-highest tribunal, they have decided not to. The judges upheld a twenty-year sentence against Rev. Mario Orantes, Gerardi's assistant.

Sgt. Mario Obdulio Villanueva had also been convicted as having co-responsibility in Gerardi's slaying and was sentenced to thirty years. He was killed, however, when fights between inmates broke out during a prison riot in 2002.

Jose Toledo, attorney for Orantes, said with consideration for good conduct the men could be released within four years, having already served six years. The appeal had sought to free all three men or provide them new trials.

A day before the appeals court revised the sentences, posters that said "We were sold" and "We Limas are innocent" were posted in different part of Guatemala City. Youth were paid Q50 (approximately \$6.25) a day

to post and maintain the signs, which campaigned in the military officers' favor.

Two years ago, the same court of appeals threw out the convictions and ordered new trials for the four men, but the Supreme Court upheld the original rulings. That decision was later endorsed by the Court of Constitutionality, Guatemala's highest court.

Juan Gerardi's death came two days after he presented a Catholic Church human rights office report blaming the military for the overwhelming majority of atrocities committed during Guatemala's 1960-1996 civil war, which killed 200,000.

MICSP to Sue Government

3/18/05 - Representatives from the Indigenous, Campesino, Union and Popular Movement (MICSP) have lodged a formal complaint against the State of Guatemala for the death of teacher and campesino Juan López. López was killed by members of the Guatemalan security forces on March 15 in Colotenengo, Huehuetenango while protesting the passage and subsequent ratification of the Central American Free Trade Agreement. According to the representatives, the government did not allow for freedom of assembly or movement. Specifically, groups are accusing Interior Minister Carlos Vielmann and National Civil Police director Erwin Sperisen.

ODHA Appeals Decision in Zamora Case

3/22/05 - The Archbishops Human Rights Office (ODHA), as co-plaintiff in the Zamora case, appealed the acquittal of Bélter Álvarez and has asked that the former specialist in the Presidential High Command (EMP) be sentenced to twenty-nine years of prison.

In late February, Eduviges Funes was sentenced to sixteen years in prison, while Bélter Álvarez, was absolved. Funes was found guilty of threats, coercion, illegal detention, aggravated robbery, and for breaking and entering the home of journalist José Rubén Zamora on June 24, 2003.

OTHER INFORMATION

US Resumes Military Aid to Guatemala

3/27/05 - The United States released \$3.2 million in military aid to Guatemala, more than a decade after such aid was cut off due to human rights abuses during the country's civil war. US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld an-

nounced the lifting of the sanctions after meeting with Guatemalan President Óscar Berger.

Berger, appearing with Rumsfeld in a press conference in Guatemalan City, said the human rights abuses committed by the Guatemalan military are a thing of the past. "The shadows that plagued our army have disappeared," Berger said through a translator.

Rumsfeld, saying Central America has reached a "magic moment," said he was satisfied Guatemala's military was developing toward a force that could assist in peacekeeping operations and cooperate with other militaries in Central America. "I've been impressed by the reforms that have been undertaken in the armed forces," he said. "I know it is a difficult thing to do but it's been done with professionalism and transparency." Officials told reporters that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had also certified progress in Guatemala and said that Guatemala's military was now cooperating closely with civilian judicial authorities.

Rights groups did not agree with Rumsfeld's assessment, although they did give Berger credit for making attempted to reduce the size of the army. Last summer, the government downsized the military from 27,214 soldiers to 15,500, eliminating seven major commands and units while reducing the defense budget. Guatemala has also contributed peacekeepers to the mission in Haiti and has taken part in several UN operations in Africa. But human rights leaders insist Guatemala has yet to turn the corner.

Several times since 2000, the army has taken to the streets to fight crime, in violation of the 1996 Peace Accords. During demonstrations in March against the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), soldiers and police opened fire on a group of campesinos in northern Guatemala, killing one.

"Despite its commitment to ending impunity and combating clandestine groups, the Berger administration has demonstrated a lack of political will and ability to make progress in establishing an effective mechanism to investigate and dismantle clandestine groups," according to a joint statement by the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights, and other groups.

These clandestine groups or illegal armed groups, which were supposed to have been dismantled after the signing of the Accords, are believed to have ties to Guatemala's military intelligence apparatus, which is also widely believed to have become increasingly active in drug

trafficking and organized crime. The rights groups, which also included the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA) and the Guatemala Human Rights Commission (GHRC), added that at least twenty-six human rights defenders have been threatened or attacked, presumably by or at the instigation of the clandestine groups, so far this year after a reported 122 attacks in 2004.

The record of US complicity with a succession of military governments is relatively complete due to the release of thousands of secret documents obtained by the independent National Security Archive (NSA), which helped Guatemala's UN-backed Historical Clarification Commission conduct a major study in the late 1990s. The Guatemalan commission, set up under the 1996 U.N.-mediated peace accord, found the country's military guilty of "acts of genocide" against the Indian population during the thirty-six-year civil war and of 93 percent of the estimated 200,000 killings which took place. It also found that Washington, particularly through its spy agencies, "lent direct and indirect support to some illegal state operations."

During the 1980s, overt US military aid totaled about \$30 million. But the killing of an American innkeeper in 1990 and the subsequent cover-up forced the U.S. Government to cut off that aid, though millions more kept flowing secretly from the CIA to Guatemala's military commanders until 1995. Since the mid-1990s, the US has provided a relative pittance, with only \$350,000 approved for tightly controlled purposes, such as maintaining U.S.-Guatemala contacts in 2005. The Bush administration is proposing to ramp that up to \$900,000 in 2006, in addition to the lifting of sanctions. The money is intended for a number of uses, including assisting in training and the modernization of Guatemala's armed forces.

Defense Minister Carlos Aldana announced that his department would use the U.S. military aid to repair helicopters and airplanes and purchase supplies including night-vision goggles, radios, and gas masks. However, Aldana mentioned different proposed uses for the money a few days later. According to Aldana, the military should play an increased role in citizen security since recent reductions in the size of the police force. He suggested increasing the size of the military to 20,000 or 30,000 in order to combat youth gang violence and terrorism, among other problems. Aldana stated, "[Rumsfeld's visit] was an initial verification of what we're doing and where we're headed...it gave accolades to the military forces."

Rumsfeld's visit was a specific concern of GHRC and NISGUA in a meeting with the US Department of State (DOS) on March 24. Guatemala Desk Officer Courtney Turner and DOS Director of Central American Affairs, David Lindwall, were present. Other items discussed included the US International Military Education and Training (IMET), the violence at the CAFTA protests, the military's role at Nueva Linda and Los Encuentros, a commission to investigate clandestine groups, the UN High Commissioners Office in Guatemala, and ultimately, US leverage points with Guatemala. The DOS representatives failed to answer why military aid was being resumed if military and police are connected to organized crime. Lindwall expressed concern about the violence at Nueva Linda and commented that the military should have no role in civilian affairs. He also said that human rights in Guatemala are a main concern of the DOS but that the situation has not gotten worse.

Morgue at Full Capacity

3/24/05 - The morgue of the Judicial Organism in zone 3 of Guatemala City is at full capacity due to the large number of violent deaths. As of March 24, the morgue receives an average of fifteen to eighteen cadavers a day. Eighty percent of the deaths were caused by firearms and the other deaths were caused by knives and other objects. In this year alone, the morgue received 461 victims of violence.

The number of bodies is so great that there is a scarcity of freezer space to that store cadavers, and there is a lack of doctors to perform autopsies. Some of the families of the victims are forced to wait to bring the bodies into the morgue because of the severe lack of resources there.

EMP Archives sent to US

3/31/05 - On March 31, 500 compact discs filled with files from the now-dismantled Presidential High Command (EMP) were sent to the National Security Archive (NSA), a non-governmental US organization, for filing and indexing. NSA will create a database that may help locate some of the detained and disappeared of the armed conflict. The EMP, which was dismantled at the end of 2003, was notorious for violently repressive social activism. The NSA hopes to finish analyzing and organizing the information by the end of 2005.



The Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, based in Washington D.C., has been on the forefront of the struggle for peace and human rights in Guatemala since it was founded in 1982. GHRC/USA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, humanitarian organization committed to monitoring, documenting and reporting on the human rights situation in Guatemala while advocating for victims of human rights violations.

Information in the Update that is not gathered directly is culled from various sources including ; the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission , Casa Alianza, Amnesty International, Associated Press, Reuters and the Guatemalan Press, including Cerigua, La Cuerda, Incidencia Democrática, Prensa Libre, La Hora, Guatemala Hoy, Siglo Veintiuno, and Patrullaje Informativo. *Dates written before the text indicate when the incidents were reported.

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ISSN #1085-0864

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