

# Guatemala Human Rights *UPDATE*

Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA

Vol 18 No 5/March 24, 2006

## FUNDAMENTAL VIOLATIONS

### **Anthropologists Receive Renewed Threats**

*(From an Amnesty International urgent action)* Fredy Peccerelli, head of the Guatemala City-based Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG), his brother Gianni Peccerelli, his sister Bianka Peccerelli Monterroso and his brother-in-law Omar Giron de León continue to be in grave danger following new death threats made in recent days. On March 15, Fredy Peccerelli received an SMS text message on his mobile phone, which read, "we are watching you anthropologist son of a bitch we will kill your siblings first..."

Fredy Peccerelli has told Amnesty International that the Public Prosecutor's Office has not advanced the investigation into the death threats made at the beginning of January 2006. Members of the FAFG have been subjected to numerous death threats as a result of their work to exhume mass graves of those killed by the Guatemalan military and their civilian adjuncts in the early 1980s. In 2002, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) ordered that Bianka Peccerelli Monterroso, Omar Giron de Leon, Fredy Peccerelli and other members of the FAFG receive precautionary protection measures. However, concerns remain about the level or efficiency of the protection provided. The level of protection had decreased just before the death threats last January. Since then, they have been given the personal police protection requested, however they report that it has been unreliable.

### **University Faculty Attacked**

On March 2, two men attacked Ana Margarita Rodas, a board member for the Faculty of Medicine at the University of San Carlos (USAC). Rodas was driving in her car when two people threw a chemical at her, causing second-degree burns on part of her arm and

back. Rodas said that she could not identify her attackers or the motive for the attack. She did not link the attack to the election of magistrates on the Constitutional Court (CC), in which she participated as a representative of the Faculty of Medicine. Luís Leal, Rector of the USAC, agreed with Rodas and said that there are many motives for which someone in disagreement with her might attack her. He announced that they will provide security for her and ask that the USAC be allowed to participate in the case.

### **Campesino Organization Raided**

The National Coordinating Committee of Campesino Organizations (CNOC) reported an illegal break-in at the offices of the Coordinating Committee of Campesino and Indigenous Organizations of the Petén (COCIP). The perpetrators tried to cover up the break-in by stealing clothing, shoes, books, materials, and other personal items belonging to the committee's members. One of the organization's leaders was beaten and threatened with death. In a communiqué, CNOC announced that the break-in occurred on March 4, the same day that COCIP member José Xoj was released on bail, after having been arbitrarily detained by the police. On March 11 and 12, a group of unidentified persons tried to enter the office again. So far this year the offices of COCIP have been broken into five times and the organization's leaders have been beaten and threatened with death. The authorities have not carried out investigations. CNOC urged the authorities to carry out the necessary enquiries to arrest the material and intellectual authors responsible for these acts of intimidation.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

### **International Women's Day Commemorated**

On March 8, the women's movement in Guatemala marked International Women's Day with a march

through the capital city, demanding equal rights and opportunities, an end to violence against women, and the passage of the Family Planning Law. Participants protested the discrimination and exclusion experienced by Guatemalan women, including the lack of access to health services, land, and the justice system, a situation exacerbated by Tropical Storm Stan. Representatives demanded that the government and the authorities promote concrete measures to provide security for women and better investigations in femicide cases in order to punish those responsible. The marchers also demanded the passage of the Family Planning Law, now before the Constitutional Court (CC), as a means of lowering the infant-maternal mortality rate. The National Network of Guatemalan Women Living with HIV commemorated the day with requests for better access to treatments and improved medical attention, for pregnant women and adolescents in particular. Alicia Rodríguez, of the Guatemalan Beijing Committee, said that the government should adhere to specific quotas for women in job posts in the executive branch. Other issues addressed included free trade, the exploitation of labor, and evictions, which affect rural, indigenous women in disproportionately negative ways.

Meanwhile, President Óscar Berger, the president of the Congress, and a magistrate of the Supreme Court of Justice signed a declaration for the creation of a Specific Commission to Address Femicide in Guatemala. Eighteen different state institutions will participate in the commission.

### **PDH to Analyze Femicide**

Human Rights Procurator Sergio Morales recently presented a proposal for an investigation on femicide to women's groups and members of the press. Morales said the principal objective of the investigation would be to identify the institutions and public officials responsible for the lack of investigation in femicide cases in Guatemala, so that those who are not fulfilling their duties could be fired. Morales said that the PDH would sign agreements with the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) and the Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) that would allow them to monitor the actions of judges, prosecutors, and police in femicide cases. In six months, the final report will be presented as part of the First Regional Report on Femicides by the Human Rights Procurators from Central America, Panama, and Belize.

### **Commission Holds Hearing on Femicides**

On March 3, representatives from Colombia, Peru, Guatemala, Mexico, and the Caribbean presented before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), describing in detail the violence and injustice suffered by women in each country. The representatives asked the IACHR to respond to the escalating violence and the lack of adequate response on the part of the authorities. Common issues cited by the participants included the lack of accurate statistics, thorough investigations, and prosecutions, all of which reveals the indifference of the state and contributes to the overall invisibility of the issue.

A number of groups, including the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM), the Women's Forum of MERCOSUR, the International Center for Human Rights Investigations (CIIDH), and the Study for the Defense of the Women's Rights (DEMUS), also asked the IACHR to create an independent Rapporteur on women's rights. The IACHR designated Commissioner Víctor Abramovich as Rapporteur on Women's Rights, but also announced there will be a future effort to create an independent Rapporteur.

## **LEGAL CASE UPDATES**

### **Amicable Solution Broken in Dos Erres Case**

On March 8, representatives of the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) and the Association of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Guatemala (FAMDEGUA) met with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). In the meeting, the representatives asked to withdraw from the amicable solution negotiated with the Guatemalan government in the case of the Dos Erres massacre in La Libertad, Petén. Acting under the scorched earth policy, the army entered the community on December 6, 1982 and executed approximately 300 women, men, and children. Because the state has not fully complied with the agreement, the representatives asked the Commission to refer the case to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Costa Rica.

The representatives acknowledged that the Guatemalan state has complied with some aspects of the amicable solution reached at the IACHR in 2000, such as economic reparations. Yet the state has failed to provide justice or collective reparations. Even though the Dos Erres case is one of the more thoroughly documented crimes committed during the internal

armed conflict, thorough investigations to punish those materially and intellectually responsible for the massacre have not been carried out. After the amicable solution was signed by both parties, the judicial proceedings in Guatemala were hindered by the excessive use of injunctions by the accused, Thirty-four injunctions have been filed, with the intent of delaying the application of justice. In addition, one of the rotating magistrates that participated in the case is also a defense lawyer in the case, which clearly violates the principle of impartiality.

An expert report by psychologist Nieves Gómez also demonstrated that the psychosocial support provided by the state is inadequate. Gómez noted that sixty percent of the massacre survivors have not received psychological attention and the other forty percent receive psychological support that addresses self-esteem, but fails to address the issue of political violence. CEJIL and FAMDEGUA emphasized that as long as there is no justice for the survivors, they will not be able to overcome the psychological trauma of the massacre.

## CHILDRENS' RIGHTS

### **PDH Concerned about Number of Adoptions**

The Children's Rights Defender of the Human Rights Procurator's Office (PDH) is concerned about the large number of international adoptions, many of which are illegal. An average of 4,000 to 5,000 Guatemalan children are adopted internationally each year, most of these in the US. According to information published by the Attorney General and the President's Secretariat for Social Welfare, for every child adopted within Guatemala, another fifty-eight are adopted by parents living in other countries. Nidia Aguilar, head of the PDH office, said that national adoptions should be given priority, and international adoptions should be considered as a last resort, after all other resources have been exhausted. Aguilar added that although there have been advances on the Law for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents, the legislation still lacks the measures needed for improved regulation of adoptions.

## MIGRANT RIGHTS

### **Abuse of Minors Reported Along the Border**

A monitoring study carried out by the Regional Group for the Defense of Migrant Rights (GREDEMIG)

reported extortion, and verbal and physical abuse along the borders. GREDEMIG carried out 155 interviews along the Guatemalan borders with Mexico and Central American countries to document, in particular, child migration. As reported by the victims, both the police and local residents discriminate against child migrants. According to the 2005 records of the Guatemalan consulate in Tapachula, thirty-three children from under three years old migrated with relatives, fifty-seven children between the ages of four and nine traveled with coyotes, and 2,500 children and adolescents crossed the borders alone. Mexico recorded the highest number of arrests of minors (ninety-two percent of the cases), followed by Guatemala (six percent of the cases). According to those interviewed by GREDEMIG, poverty is the principal cause of migration, documented in fifty-four percent of cases, followed by family reunification with thirty-nine percent. The study also noted the absence of public policies geared towards addressing the root causes of migration in Central American countries. Instead, current government policies are designed to control migrants.

### **Migration Increases Following Stan**

Migration to the US has increased in recent months, especially from areas where Tropical Storm Stan destroyed land and crops, the primary source of survival for thousands of campesinos. Celeste Orozco, coordinator of the Human Mobility Pastoral in San Marcos, said that the highland regions of San Marcos were hardest hit by the disaster and that residents from those areas are now searching for better living conditions. Orozco added that the migrants are subjected to extortion, assaults, physical and moral mistreatment on the border between Guatemala and Mexico, where police authorities and criminals commit abuses that often go unreported.

### **Heated Debate on Immigration Reform Continues**

The debate surrounding the enforcement-only immigration bill sponsored by Representative James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), HR 4437, continues as the Senate considers the legislation. Among other measures, the bill would criminalize undocumented immigrants and advocates, increase border security, and expand a wall along the US-Mexico border. The Senate Judiciary Committee is considering an alternative bipartisan proposal, based on a plan by Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and John McCain (R-AZ). This proposal would tighten border security, but also provide a path to citi-

zenship for undocumented workers in the US. This proposal would require undocumented workers to pay fines, contribute taxes, and learn English. After several years, the workers could apply for US citizenship. Critics vow to oppose any form of “amnesty” for undocumented workers. Some analysts have said that no bill is the most likely outcome.

A number of immigrant and advocacy groups have organized marches and protests to voice opposition to HR 4437, with large demonstrations in Los Angeles and Chicago. On March 6, over 20,000 people gathered in Washington, DC for a protest organized by the National Coalition of Immigrants. Organizers noted that none of the proposals in Congress include a real solution for migrants.

The Foreign Relations Ministers of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Belize, Panama, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Costa Rica also met to discuss strategies to address US immigration reform. The ministers’ declaration argued for the establishment of adequate mechanisms to guarantee legal, secure, and orderly migration with respect for individual rights, dialogue, and cooperation. The ministers agreed that this particular hard-line policy does not represent an integral solution to the problem.

## **SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS**

### **Policies Needed to Ease Effects of Free Trade**

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) recently released a study on the predicted effects of the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) in rural areas of Central America. The study predicts that 53.3 percent of rural homes will need state assistance to diversify their production to transition to more profitable crops. The report also states that there could be massive migration to urban centers. About 996 US agricultural products will enter Guatemala duty-free as negotiated in DR-CAFTA. Marco Antonio Sánchez, a researcher with the University Rafael Landívar, said that 659,922 rural homes that cultivate basic grains for self-consumption would need some type of subsidy or transfer in order to confront the changes brought by DR-CAFTA. The majority of these homes are in the southwestern or northwestern areas of the country, where the highest levels of poverty are registered.

### **PDH Warns of Humanitarian Crisis**

In a press conference, Human Rights Procurator Sergio Morales warned of an upcoming humanitarian disaster, if disaster and hunger prevention programs are not executed. Morales said that even with climate experts’ forecasts of seventeen more storms this year and even after suffering the effects of Tropical Storm Stan, Guatemala continues to lack adequate prevention programs. People living in high-risk zones still do not know what to do in the case of an emergency. Morales added that poverty is severe in Guatemala, with fifty-six percent of Guatemalans, some 6.4 million people, living in conditions of poverty and close to sixteen percent living in extreme poverty.

### **Right to Food at Risk in Guatemala**

According to United Nations estimates, seventy percent of the Guatemalan population in rural areas lives below the poverty line. In rural areas, the indigenous population is the most vulnerable group, with the least access to basic services, such as education, health, and housing. In Guatemala, where indigenous people make up more than forty percent of the total population, three in every four indigenous persons live in poverty.

Studies of the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) have shown that public spending in rural areas of Latin America has decreased in recent years; the region devotes only six percent of its budget to rural areas. Compared to other Latin American countries, Guatemala has high levels of chronic infant malnutrition and extreme poverty, particularly among indigenous populations. This is due, in large part, to a long history of social exclusion and severe inequality. Ziegler expressed concern regarding the disproportionate rate of infant malnutrition and the high percentage of Guatemalans, more than sixty percent, that are surviving on wages that do not cover their basic food necessities. Ziegler emphasized that the government should adopt policies that address these deficiencies within the framework of the Peace Accords.

After a visit in January of 2005, Ziegler recommended that the government consider the guarantee of the right to food an urgent priority, given the high rates of hunger and extreme poverty in Guatemala.

### **Mesoamerican Conference Meets in Huehuetenango**

Delegations from Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Guatemala met in Colotenango, Huehuetenango to participate in the Mesoamerican Conference of Indigenous Peoples. Francisco Rocaël Mateo, the

coordinator for the event, announced that the indigenous populations of Mesoamerica demonstrated their commitment to the struggle to defend their lands and cultures, exchanging proposals on trade, health, human rights, gender, leadership, and popular struggles. During the event, participants took time to recognize the gains of the past year, including the organized opposition to the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). They also commemorated the anniversary of the death of Juan López, who was killed during a protest against DR-CAFTA. Participants also discussed alternative development models, the power of local communities, and the interests of transnational companies involved in mining activity.

### **Organizations Call for Rural Development**

Mesa Global and the Campesino Unity Committee (CUC) called for a new vision for rural development that includes comprehensive agrarian reform, to mark the Day of Resistance in the Struggle against DR-CAFTA and the anniversary of the murder of Juan López. The organizations emphasized that agricultural reforms should be comprehensive, with respect to food sovereignty and land rights, and should prioritize the needs of small producers over the interests of national and transnational agribusiness. Mesa Global and CUC said that DR-CAFTA not only represents a concession of national sovereignty to transnational companies, but it also furthers the prioritization of the interests of capital over the needs of the impoverished rural population.

The groups pointed out that Guatemala ranks among the most inequitable countries in the world and the gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow. There are forty-seven *fincas* (plantations) in the country with over 9,000 acres, while ninety percent of agricultural producers survive on an average plot less than three acres. In 1989, the poorest twenty percent of families accounted for 2.7 percent of the total national income. Thirteen years later, the poorest twenty percent of families accounted for only 1.7 percent of income. There has been a corresponding increase in extreme poverty, which rose to 31.1 percent in rural areas, while malnutrition rose to 54.9 percent.

### **UNDP Calls for Policies to Address Inequality**

The United Nations Development Program, released its 2005 report entitled, "Ethnic-Cultural Diversity: Citizenship in a Plural State," focusing on inequality in terms of health, education, politics, and the econ-

omy. The study shows that ethnic and gender inequalities are particularly pronounced in the economy, including income inequality and access to resources. The country also falls short in terms of political participation. The report noted that there is significant indigenous representation among local authorities, but the same does not hold true on a national level. After the elections in 2003, only eight percent of the elected representatives were indigenous. The UNDP emphasized the necessity of public policies to address ethnic and cultural equality in state institutions, in development, and in public participation. These policies should encompass changes in the distribution of power, the make-up of state institutions, the implementation of public policy, and the allocation of resources. The UNDP acknowledged the advances of the past year, including reforms to the Penal Code that classify discrimination as a crime.

### **Organization Challenges New Mining License**

The Maya Defense Organization challenged the Ministry of Energy and Mines for granting a new mining license. According to the organization, the government granted the license to the company Nichromet Guatemala, S.A. for an area encompassing 1,541 square kilometers and eighteen municipalities of Quiché, Alta Verapaz, and Baja Verapaz. The organization argues that the ministry has failed to respect the agreement reached between the government and the High Level Commission, originally created to search for a solution to the problems associated with mining. Members of the commission said the government agreed to temporarily suspend the granting of new mining licenses. Officials from the Ministry of Energy and Mines contend that the new license does not violate any agreements reached with the High Level Commission.

The High Level Commission maintained its position that recent reforms to the Mining Law are insufficient and fail to include agreements reached in negotiations. The commission has asked the government to include measures for consulting local indigenous communities, in accordance with Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization (ILO), as well as measures to regulate water use, reclassify minerals, raise royalties up to fifty-one percent, and conduct environmental impact studies. Vitalino Similox, a member of the commission, said that the government has maintained particular measures in the new legislation in order to benefit certain economic sectors. Repre-

sentatives of the Congressional Commission on Energy and Mines have offered to mediate in an effort to continue dialogue with the High Level Commission.

### **PDH Releases Report on Mining**

The Human Rights Procurator's Office (PDH) presented its first report on mining and human rights in Guatemala in March. Among other measures, the PDH urged the government to consider the opinion of the local population in areas with mining activity. Because the current legislation does not allow for this, Procurator Sergio Morales, called on the government to develop legislation with better mechanisms for community consultation and participation, while also considering the effects on the environment and the economy over the short, medium, and long term. Morales also proposed imposing fines for negligence to cover any necessary reconstruction costs. In addition, he suggested clearly defined conditions and processes by which the government could revoke mining licenses. Morales said the law should also require the state to carry out an environmental impact study that also includes the social and economic impact of mining in the affected regions. The report also pointed out that current royalties, an estimated one percent of the total, are much lower than those allowed by Guatemalan law in previous years. In 1935, for example, the law established a royalty of ten percent.

### **Residents in Escuintla Request Royalties**

Residents of San Vicente Pacaya, Escuintla, who tried to prevent the passage of machinery for the construction of a geothermal plant in the municipality, demanded that the company Joshi Shilon follow through on its commitment to grant royalties to the local population. According to the mayor, Álvaro Valdez, the community has requested that 0.75% of the earnings be invested in local infrastructure projects, a request that was also presented to the Ministry of Energy and Mines. Valdez said that alternatively, the company could cover the costs of a local potable water project. He warned that if the community's request is rejected, they will hold a popular consultation on whether or not the plant should close. Minister of Energy and Mines Luís Ortiz said that the petition would be evaluated, although it is a difficult decision to make, as signed contracts have already established certain conditions for the company.

### **UN Calls for Anti-Discrimination Laws**

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination urged Guatemala to adopt laws to address racism and discrimination. The committee, composed of eighteen independent experts charged with monitoring compliance with the UN convention on discrimination, specified that the new law should prohibit all incitement of racial discrimination, as well as all violent acts against indigenous peoples and afro-descendants. The UN insisted that Guatemala promote respect for and recognition of traditional systems of justice and compliance with international human rights standards, and in this way preserve the culture of a considerable portion of the population. The committee also called on Guatemala to boost efforts to increase indigenous participation in state institutions, in particular, indigenous women. The committee emphasized that Guatemala should take measures that recognize and protect indigenous rights to own and use land that traditionally belonged to them. The experts also suggested establishing a mechanism to consult indigenous peoples for all administrative or legislative decisions that affect them, as well as literacy programs and bilingual schools. According to the National Statistics Institute (INE), forty-three percent of the population is indigenous; the majority is concentrated in rural areas, living in poverty or extreme poverty. There are at least twenty-three languages spoken in Guatemala.

## **LAND RIGHTS**

### **Eviction in Quiché Leaves One Dead, Two Wounded**

On March 5, a confrontation between people occupying land on the *finca* San Miguelito, Nebaj, Quiché and workers of the estate left one dead and two wounded. According to a survivor, Gaspar Brito Raymundo, twenty-five years old, was killed by a bullet, and Juan Marcos, thirty-five years old, was injured when *finca* personnel tried to evict them without a judicial order. According to the press, the Pulay community was established eight years ago. Elías Raymundo Brito, twenty-one years old, was also injured by a machete. He said that the confrontation started when those occupying the estate tried to take over an additional part of the *finca*.

### **CONIC Denounces Eviction Threats**

The National Coordinating Committee of Indigenous and Campesino Organizations (CONIC) reported harassment, persecution, intimidation, and threats of evic-

tion against thirty-seven communities settled in Laguna del Tigre, Petén. Most of the families have been there for more than thirty-three years. CONIC asserted that the expulsion of these communities was planned under the pretense of preserving and protecting the national park; yet the organization has received information about exploration and exploitation licenses that have been granted for the same area. The organization demanded that the Presidential Agency for the Resolution of Land Conflicts (CONTIERRA) investigate to find an immediate solution. CONIC also requested the intervention of the Human Rights Procurator (PDH), in order to avoid further abuses and confrontations. The organization said that the government should respect the norms of local communities before granting concessions in indigenous territories.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### **Department of State Releases Human Rights Report**

The United States Department of State released its annual "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices," which signaled that Guatemala still faces numerous human rights challenges. The report highlights corruption and substantial inadequacies in the police and judicial sectors, widespread societal violence, and impunity for criminal activity. This includes unlawful killings committed by members of the security forces, police involvement in kidnappings, harsh and dangerous prison conditions, arbitrary arrest and detentions, and the failure of the judicial system to ensure full and timely investigations, fair trials, or due process. In addition, the list points to the government's failure to protect judicial sector officials, witnesses, and civil society organizations from intimidation, impunity, gender and ethnic discrimination, violence against women, trafficking in persons, including commercial sexual exploitation of children. The report also notes the ineffective enforcement of labor laws, including child labor provisions.

The report focuses on the government's weak enforcement of its human rights laws. Non-state actors with links to organized crime, gangs, private security companies, and alleged "clandestine groups" committed hundreds of killings and other crimes. Human rights activists alleged that these persons also were responsible for threats, assaults, burglaries, and thefts targeted at human rights organizations. In addition, killings of women, including evidence of sexual assault, torture and mutilation, continued at an alarming rate

and killings of children, particularly in Guatemala City, increased during the year.

The report also discusses the inability of the Guatemalan state to adequately investigate and prosecute human rights offenders. An estimated three percent of approximately 250 thousand complaints filed with the Public Ministry during the year were prosecuted. The offices frequently lack the resources to carry out investigations, and prosecutors remain susceptible to intimidation and corruption.

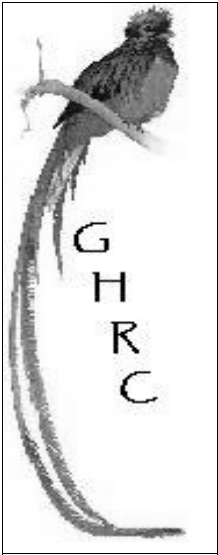
According to the report, improvements include a program to train 1,243 National Civilian Police (PNC) cadets in human rights and professional ethics. The report also found that the government generally respected rights of freedom of speech and press, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion. The government also generally respected the right to freedom of movement within the country, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation, as well as the right to conduct union activities.

### **US to Participate in Anti-Drug Efforts in San Marcos**

As part of Plan Maya Jaguar, the United States plans to participate in illegal searches carried out by the Ministry of the Interior in Tajumulco, San Marcos. Through the break-ins, the Ministry of the Interior intends to disarm the local residents and eradicate poppy cultivation in the area. This particular operation will involve members of both the US and Guatemalan militaries, as well as personnel from the Guatemalan Public Prosecutor's Office (MP) and judiciary.

### **Prisons System Faces HIV/AIDS Crisis**

An evaluation by the Penitentiary System and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS), revealed that three in ten prisoners are infected with HIV/AIDS. Alejandro Giammattei, director of the Penitentiary System, said that visits from prostitutes and prison rapes are the principal causes. Giammattei added that the prostitutes enter the prisons and have sexual relations with a number of prisoners in the same day and then leave the prison to work on the streets. According to statistics, there are 7,200 prisoners in the nation's eight detention centers. Giammattei warns that the spread of HIV is becoming more and more difficult to control. The prison director also pointed out that the budget is insufficient to provide the necessary treatment and preventative care.



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Information in the *UPDATE* that is not gathered directly is culled from various sources, including the Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Guatemala, Casa Alianza, Albedrío, Amnesty International, Associated Press, Reuters, and Guatemalan news sources, such as Cerigua Centro de Estudios de Guatemala, Incidencia Democrática, Prensa Libre, El Periódico, La Hora, and Siglo Veintiuno.

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ISSN #1085-0864

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**Vol 18 No 5**

3321 12th Street NE  
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- Anthropologists Receive New Threats 1
- Commission Holds Hearings on Femicides 2
- Amicable Solution Broken in Dos Erres Case 2
- Policies Needed to Ease Effects of Free Trade 4
- CONIC Denounces Eviction Threats 6

Insert: On the Anniversary of the Death of Juan López (CNOC)





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Vol 18 No 4

1 17 No 17

- Commission Orders Protection for OASIS Members 1
- CUC Demands Suspension of Eviction Orders 1
- Reports of Domestic Violence Increase 2
- Reparations Payments Suspended 5
- Militarization of Public Security Criticized 6

Insert: Transgender People Face Deadly Attacks









