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A N T H R O P O L O G I C A L
A S S O C I A T I O N

Dr. Carlos Castresana
International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala
Apartado Postal 934 "A"
Ciudad de Guatemala,
Guatemala
Correo-e: sosa1@un.org (Margarita Sosa)

Dear Dr. Castresana:

The Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation ("FAFG") has informed the American Anthropological Association Committee for Human Rights that FAFG's Executive Director, Mr. Fredy Peccerelli, members of his immediate family, and a number of FAFG employees have received threats of violent retribution for their tireless work to document past and present human rights abuses by illegal armed groups in Guatemala. The threats of dismemberment and death arrive via email and the most recent threats occurred on 19 May 2008. We are also aware that the threats against Mr. Peccerelli, the Peccerelli family, and FAFG employees extend as far back as 20 May 2002. Printed copies of the relevant e-mails are enclosed with this correspondence for your review.

FAFG's past efforts to address the dangers posed by these threats through the Guatemalan Ministerio Publico have been unsuccessful. Therefore, we formally make the following requests of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala.

- 1) The civil police should continue to improve, their efforts concerning the security of the FAFG workplace, its employees, and the Peccerelli family. The security plan should be put into a confidential written statement that references the security improvement and termination timeline, standard operating procedures, and numbers of civil police that will be tasked with this security operation. Access to this plan should be restricted on a need-to-know basis to senior-level representatives of PNC, the FAFG and their legal representatives.
- 2) The Ministerio Público should provide a written detailed explanation of the current status of the threat investigation which began in 2002, along with a specific timetable for plans to complete this investigation and resources committed to doing so. We also request that the scope of this investigation be widened to focus in a timely fashion on the most recent threats and that this investigation include cyber crime analysis to identify the originator of the death and dismemberment threats.
- 3) A statement from the government expressly supporting the involvement of the CICIG in this investigation. We also request, consistent with the agreement establishing the CICIG as an independent investigative commission, that the CICIG be allowed free access to the state's documents and the records of the civil police in order to conduct a thorough, independent investigation of the past and current threats.

Our hope is that the CICIG can bring the perspective of unbiased accountability to these circumstances and help the state to identify and prosecute the perpetrators of these threats. If that can be accomplished, then FAFG can continue its work unimpeded by considerable security concerns and expand its efforts to decrease the persistence of violent behaviors that are severely damaging Guatemalan society and its fledgling democratic institutions.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these very important matters.

Sincerely,