

Ministerio Público  
Attorney General María Consuelo Porras Argueta  
15 Avenida 15-16 Zona 1,  
Edificio Gerona, 8 Nivel  
Guatemala, CA

1 August, 2018

Dear Attorney General María Consuelo Porras Argueta:

We are writing to express our profound sadness and concern at the killing of human rights defender Ángel Estuardo Quevedo in the municipality of Santa Rosa de Lima on July 12, 2018. Estuardo resided in the municipality of Casillas and was a member of the Peaceful Resistance movement of Santa Rosa, Jalapa and Jutiapa. He played an important role in making visible broad community opposition to the Escobal silver mine, a Canadian mining investment project, owned by Tahoe Resources. Estuardo and his fellow human rights defenders have worked tirelessly and at great personal risk to raise awareness about the ways in which Tahoe and its subsidiary Minera San Rafael have violated their human rights.

Before his death, Estuardo spent considerable time in Guatemala City at the peaceful resistance camp set up outside the Constitutional Court to inform the public about the violations of Indigenous rights committed by Tahoe and Minera San Rafael. He was awaiting a crucial Constitutional Court ruling about the future of the Escobal mine when he was killed. Estuardo lived and died as a courageous human rights defender and was part of a community still facing terrible risks to stand up for their rights.

We lament the fact that the State of Guatemala did not protect Estuardo, who had received threats in the days leading up to his murder. He sadly joins a growing list of human rights defenders killed in Guatemala since the beginning of 2018 for standing up to protect land, water and the environment.

**We call on you to thoroughly, impartially and promptly investigate his murder.** As outlined in the newly adopted *General Instruction to investigate crimes against human rights defenders*, your investigation should include the theory that the attack was in retaliation for his legitimate human rights defence work.

In order to show that Guatemala is serious about ending the ongoing wave of killings of human rights defenders, we strongly urge you to:

- publicly condemn the murder of Ángel Estuardo Quevedo

- publicly insist that attacks, stigmatization, abuse, discrimination or the killing of human rights defenders anywhere in Guatemala will not be tolerated,
- Arrest and bring to justice those responsible for his killing.

We also urge you to take appropriate measures, in accordance with the group's wishes, to guarantee the safety of other members of the peaceful resistance movement of Santa Rosa, Jalapa and Jutiapa, who are facing increasing surveillance, intimidation and threats. Doing so will send a strong signal that the Guatemalan state recognizes the important and legitimate work of human rights defenders and could prevent further attacks.

As civil society organisations across Canada and the United States, we again raise our voices together to call on the Government of Guatemala to comply with its international obligations to protect human rights defenders and to take decisive action to prevent further violence against peaceful protesters.

Signed,

Americas Policy Group (APG) of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation

Amnesty International Canada - English Speaking Branch

Amnesty International Canada - Francophone Branch

Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network (ARSN)

BC CASA

Canadian Jesuits international

Casa Maria Catholic Worker

Catalyst Project

Center for Coalfield Justice

Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America

CoDevelopment Canada

Committee for Human Rights in Latin America (CDHAL)

Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)

Cooperation Operation, Chicago

Copper Country Guatemala Accompaniment Project

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW – STTP)

Democratic Socialists of America, Salem Oregon

Denver Justice and Peace Committee

EarthNexus

Earthworks

Friends of Latin America

GABRIELA, Oakland

Grassroots Global Justice  
Guatemala Human Rights Commission  
Guatemala Partnership Committee, Congregational Church of Needham  
International League of Peoples' Struggle, Portland  
Inter Pares  
InterReligious Task Force on Central America  
Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission  
Justice Travel  
KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives  
Kickapoo/Guatemala Accompaniment Project (KGAP)  
Lakes Area Group Organizing in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (LAGOS)  
Latin America Task Force of Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice  
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
MiningWatch Canada  
Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network (BTS)  
Metro New York Catholic Climate Movement  
Mining Injustice Solidarity Network  
Mining Justice Alliance  
Native American Films, Brooklyn  
Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA)  
New Hampshire-Vermont Guatemala Accompaniment Project  
Nicaragua Center for Community Action (NICCA)  
Nobel Women's Initiative  
Oberlin Students in Solidarity with Guatemala (OSSGUA)  
Oregon PeaceWorks  
Partners for Arlington and Guatemala (PAG)  
Pax Christi, Clinton Iowa  
Peace and Justice Commission of St. Philip Neri Parish, Portland  
People's Health Movement Canada/ Mouvement Populaire pour la Santé au Canada  
Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC)  
Queers for Climate Change  
Rights Action  
Rose Haven, Portland  
Santa Elena Project of Accompaniment (SEPA)  
School of Living  
School of the Americas Watch, Los Angeles  
Sister Parish, Inc.  
Siti Maimunah, Mining Advocacy Network (JATAM), Indonesia

St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA)  
Stuart Center for Mission, Educational Leadership & Technology  
Task Force on the Americas  
Universalist Church of Arlington, Virginia  
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland  
Workers World Portland  
Xun Biosphere Project

Cc:

Karolina Guay, Political Advisor of the Canadian Embassy in Guatemala  
His Excellency Luis E. Arreaga, US Ambassador to Guatemala  
His Excellency Carlos Humberto Jiménez Licona, Guatemalan Ambassador to Canada



