

Her Excellency Ambassador Leeann McKechnie
Embassy of Canada in Guatemala
Guatemala City, Guatemala
leeann.mckechnie@international.gc.ca

April 2010

Dear Ambassador McKechnie;

I am writing to thank you and the Canadian embassy in Guatemala for your diligence in attending to the case of CCDA General Coordinator Leocadio Juracán Salome and his family, who had suffered threats and intimidation as a consequence of their human rights and community development work. Canada's quick action in this case may well have saved Mr. Juracán's life.

Although Leocadio and his family are now in Canada, intimidation and harassment of the CCDA continue. For example; hooded men have come to the village of Santa Cruz Quixaya, where the CCDA has its national headquarters, shots have been fired in the village late at night; and strangers have been asking about Mr. Juracán's whereabouts. In addition, the promised security perimeter offered by the Human Rights Ombuds office and the Presidential Human Rights Commission (COPREDEH) has not materialized.

For these reasons, we ask that you bring up this case again with the Guatemalan authorities and urge them to take stronger action to stem the threats and intimidation against the CCDA.

The threats against Mr. Juracán and his family represent only one of more than 280 cases of intimidation and violence against labour, human rights and social movement leaders in the past two years, so we also ask you to use Canada's good offices with the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) to make greater effort to resolve these cases.

I thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

E-Mail: _____