

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 34/009/2006

16 March 2006

Further Information on UA 238/05 (AMR 34/001/2006, 13 January 2006 and AMR 34/038/2005, 14 September 2005) Fear for safety/death threats

**GUATEMALA**            **Fredy Peccerelli (m), head of the *Fundación de Antropología Forense de Guatemala (FAFG)*, Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation.**  
**Bianka Peccerelli Monterroso (f), sister of Fredy Peccerelli**  
**Omar Girón de León (m), FAFG Laboratory Coordinator and husband of**  
**Bianka Peccerelli Monterroso**  
**Jeannette Peccerelli (f), former wife of Fredy Peccerelli**  
**Other members of the FAFG**  
**Gianni Peccerelli (m), brother of Fredy Peccerelli**

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Fredy Peccerelli, head of the Guatemala City-based *Fundación de Antropología Forense Guatemala (FAFG)*, the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation, his brother Gianni Peccerelli, his sister Bianka Peccerelli Monterroso and his brother-in-law Omar Girón de León continue to be in grave danger following new death threats made in recent days.

On 15 March, Fredy Peccerelli received an SMS text message on his mobile phone which read, "*los tenemos bien controlados antropologo hijo de puta vamos a matar a tus hermanos primero...*" ("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 with the investigation into the death threats made at the beginning of January 2006. On 9 January, he received a death threat by SMS text message aimed at his brother. The following day, a letter was deposited in the mail box at the home of Bianka Peccerelli Monterroso and her husband Omar Girón de León, who is the Laboratory Coordinator for the FAFG. On 5 January 2006, Jeannette Peccerelli, Fredy Peccerelli's former wife, was shopping with her two children, accompanied by the police officer protecting her, when an unidentified man began following them. In fear for their safety, they were forced to abandon their shopping trip.

Fredy Peccerelli and other 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 Girón de León, 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 protection requested in terms of police presence, however they report that it has been unreliable.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing grave concern for the safety of Bianka Peccerelli, Gianni Peccerelli, Fredy Peccerelli, Omar Girón de León and Jeannette Peccerelli;

- urging the authorities to take immediate measures to offer all the protection needed to the individuals named above and the offices of FAFG, in accordance with the 2002 order of the IACHR;
- calling for an immediate and thorough investigation into the threats, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- calling for the authorities to account for their failure to conduct adequate investigations into previous threats against members of the FAFG;
- reminding the authorities of the right of human rights defenders to carry out their activities without any restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

**APPEALS TO:**

Vice-Minister of the Interior

Vice-Ministro de Gobernación

Julio César Godoy Anleu

6a.Avenida 4-64, zona 4, nivel 2.Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

**Fax: + 502 2361 5914**

**Salutation: Señor Ministro/ Dear Minister**

Head of the Special Prosecutor's Office on Human Rights

Jefa de la Fiscalía de Sección de Derechos Humanos

Rosa Maria Salazar Marroquin

7a. Avenida 11-20, Zona 1, Segundo nivel

Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

**Fax: + 502 2230 5296 (if a voice responds, say "por favor, tono de fax")**

**Salutation: Estimada Fiscal/ Dear Madam**

**COPIES TO:**

Human rights organization

Fundación de Antropología Forense de Guatemala (FAFG)

Avenida Simón Cañas 10-64, Zona 2, Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

**Fax: + 502 2254 0882/2288 7297/ 2288 7302 (if a voice responds, say "por favor, tono de fax")**

and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 April 2006.