

URGENT ACTION

GUATEMALAN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST AT RISK

Guatemalan journalist, Marvin del Cid Acevedo, has received several death threats, after investigating corruption in public bodies.

On 24 June, Marvin del Cid Acevedo, a journalist at the national Guatemalan newspaper El Periódico, was phoned by a neighbour to say that two women had just left his house. Marvin del Cid Acevedo did not have anyone staying with him, so hurried back to his house and found it had been broken into. The door was open and his wardrobe had been searched along with his archive of documents. His personal laptops had been stolen, along with some money, and “you are going to die” “te vas a morir” had been written with a black marker pen across the bathroom wall.

On 7 June, the day after his newspaper published a piece of his investigative reporting, Marvin del Cid received two phone calls in which a male voice said “who is paying you son of a bitch?” “quien te esta pagando hijo de puta?”. On 8 June he received another call, this time silent. On 29 June he received another silent call (although he could hear faint voices in the background), which lasted 30 seconds before he hung-up.

In the last months, Marvin del Cid has been working on various investigations that have denounced corruption in three separate public bodies. Additionally, he has been a witness in a judicial case against a high ranking member of the security forces in a case relating to a death.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- calling for an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats and acts of intimidation against Marvin del Cid Acevedo and into the break-in of his house and theft of personal items including information relevant to his work as an investigative journalist;
- urging that the authorities take immediate steps to provide appropriate protection to Marvin del Cid Acevedo, in accordance with his wishes.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 10 AUGUST 2010 TO:

Acting Attorney General and Head of the Public Prosecutor's Office
Licda. Maria Encarnación Mejía García
de Contreras
Fiscal General de la República y Jefe del Ministerio Público
15ª Avenida 15-16, Zona 1, Barrio Gerona
Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Fax: +502 2411 9124
Salutation: Dear Attorney General / Estimada Sra. Fiscal General

Minister of the Interior/ Ministro de Gobernación:
Lic. Carlos Menocal
Ministro de Gobernación
6ª Avenida 13-71, Zona 1,
Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Fax: +502 2413 8658
Salutation: Dear Minister/ Estimado Sr. Ministro

And copies to:

El Periódico
15 Avenida 24-51 zona 13,
Ciudad de Guatemala
GUATEMALA
Fax: +502 2427 2361

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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INTERNATIONAL**

