

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

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## **Guatemala: Amnesty International calls for the Special Prosecutor to be reinstated in the Gerardi Case**

In a letter sent today, Amnesty International called upon the Attorney-General of the Republic of Guatemala to reinstate the Special Prosecutor who was investigating the case of the murder of Bishop Gerardi.

The Special Prosecutor in the Gerardi Case, along with the auxiliary prosecutors, was removed from his post on 8 April and relocated to another public prosecutor's office.

"The decision to withdraw the Special Prosecutor who was dealing with the Gerardi case will have negative consequences for justice in Guatemala and will serve only to perpetuate the climate of impunity that reigns in the country," said Amnesty International.

"It is essential that the Guatemalan authorities take concrete steps to clarify the events surrounding the bishop's murder and bring those responsible to justice, in the context of the war on impunity."

### **General Information**

26 April marked the seventh anniversary of the murder of the Guatemalan bishop, Juan Gerardi. To date, only three accomplices have been sentenced and none of the perpetrators brought to justice. Bishop Gerardi was murdered hours after presentation of a report on the Recovery of Historical Memory (Recuperación de la Memoria Histórica - REMHI), which documented more than 55,000 human rights violations that took place during the armed conflict (1960-1996). The majority of these violations were attributed to the Army.

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