

| | |
|--|--|
| Via Fax: 011 502 2413 8658 Sr. Salvador Gándara Minister of the Interior of Guatemala | Via Fax: 011 502 2411 9124 Lic José Amilcar Velásquez Zárate Attorney General and Head of Public Prosecutor's Office of Guatemala |
| Via Fax: 011 502 7867 5301 Sr. Rudel Mauricio Álvarez Governor of the Department of Petén Guatemala | |

May 12, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply concerned for the safety of **Edgar Neftaly Aldana Valencia**, Secretary General of the San Benito branch of the National Health Professionals' Union in the Department of Petén and for his family. While traveling home from his job at the San Benito Hospital on April 1, he noticed that he was followed by two men on a red motorcycle. While he changed routes to lose the men, unknown men fired nine shots at his house where his wife and daughter were at the time. A few hours later he received a call on his mobile phone from an unknown man confirming that the intimidation was a result of his being a trade unionist and stating, "I was paid 100,000 quetzales (about USD 12,300) to physically eliminate you, but we can reach an agreement." He then received four text messages stating death threats against him and his wife and warning him not to go to the police. Although he did file a complaint with the authorities on April 2, they have not provided any form of protection and no arrests have been made in connection with these incidents.

The intimidation of Edgar Neftaly Aldana Valencia is clearly linked to his work against corruption and discriminatory practices at the San Benito Hospital where he works. Therefore, we **strongly urge that you**

- take immediate steps to provide effective protection for Edgar Aldana and his family, in accordance with their wishes;
- order a swift, full and impartial investigation into the incidents detailed above, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

CC: National Health Professionals' Union ~ via fax: 011 502 2232 9289
 Francisco Villagran de Leon, Guatemalan Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 745 1908
 Stephen McFarland, US Ambassador to Guatemala ~ via fax: 011-502-2334-8477
 Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ via fax: (202)458-3992
 Skye Justice, Guatemala Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-2597
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
 US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

UA105/09Guatemala

The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter: