Ministerio Público
Attorney General María Consuelo Porras Argueta
15 Avenida 15-16 Zona 1,
Edificio Gerona, 8 Nivel
Guatemala, CA

1 August, 2018

Dear Attorney General María Consuelo Porras Argueta:

We are writing to express our profound sadness and concern at the killing of human rights defender Ángel Estuardo Quevedo in the municipality of Santa Rosa de Lima on July 12, 2018. Estuardo resided in the municipality of Casillas and was a member of the Peaceful Resistance movement of Santa Rosa, Jalapa and Jutiapa. He played an important role in making visible broad community opposition to the Escobal silver mine, a Canadian mining investment project, owned by Tahoe Resources. Estuardo and his fellow human rights defenders have worked tirelessly and at great personal risk to raise awareness about the ways in which Tahoe and its subsidiary Minera San Rafael have violated their human rights.

Before his death, Estuardo spent considerable time in Guatemala City at the peaceful resistance camp set up outside the Constitutional Court to inform the public about the violations of Indigenous rights committed by Tahoe and Minera San Rafael. He was awaiting a crucial Constitutional Court ruling about the future of the Escobal mine when he was killed. Estuardo lived and died as a courageous human rights defender and was part of a community still facing terrible risks to stand up for their rights.

We lament the fact that the State of Guatemala did not protect Estuardo, who had received threats in the days leading up to his murder. He sadly joins a growing list of human rights defenders killed in Guatemala since the beginning of 2018 for standing up to protect land, water and the environment.

We call on you to thoroughly, impartially and promptly investigate his murder. As outlined in the newly adopted *General Instruction to investigate crimes against human rights defenders*, your investigation should include the theory that the attack was in retaliation for his legitimate human rights defence work.

In order to show that Guatemala is serious about ending the ongoing wave of killings of human rights defenders, we strongly urge you to:
- publicly condemn the murder of Ángel Estuardo Quevedo

- publicly insist that attacks, stigmatization, abuse, discrimination or the killing of human rights defenders anywhere in Guatemala will not be tolerated,
- Arrest and bring to justice those responsible for his killing.

We also urge you to take appropriate measures, in accordance with the group's wishes, to guarantee the safety of other members of the peaceful resistance movement of Santa Rosa, Jalapa and Jutiapa, who are facing increasing surveillance, intimidation and threats. Doing so will send a strong signal that the Guatemalan state recognizes the important and legitimate work of human rights defenders and could prevent further attacks.

As civil society organisations across Canada and the United States, we again raise our voices together to call on the Government of Guatemala to comply with its international obligations to protect human rights defenders and to take decisive action to prevent further violence against peaceful protesters.

Signed,

Americas Policy Group (APG) of the Canadian Council for International Co-operation
Amnesty International Canada - English Speaking Branch
Amnesty International Canada - Francophone Branch
Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network (ARSN)
BC CASA
Canadian Jesuits international
Casa Maria Catholic Worker
Catalyst Project
Center for Coalfield Justice
Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America
CoDevelopment Canada
Committee for Human Rights in Latin America (CDHAL)
Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)
Cooperation Operation, Chicago
Copper Country Guatemala Accompaniment Project
The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW – STTP)
Democratic Socialists of America, Salem Oregon
Denver Justice and Peace Committee
EarthNexus
Earthworks
Friends of Latin America
GABRIELA, Oakland

Grassroots Global Justice

Guatemala Human Rights Commission

Guatemala Partnership Committee, Congregational Church of Needham

International League of Peoples' Struggle, Portland

Inter Pares

InterReligious Task Force on Central America

Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Commission

Justice Travel

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

Kickapoo/Guatemala Accompaniment Project (KGAP)

Lakes Area Group Organizing in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (LAGOS)

Latin America Task Force of Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice

Latin America Working Group (LAWG)

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

MiningWatch Canada

Maritimes-Guatemala Breaking the Silence Network (BTS)

Metro New York Catholic Climate Movement

Mining Injustice Solidarity Network

Mining Justice Alliance

Native American Films, Brooklyn

Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA)

New Hampshire-Vermont Guatemala Accompaniment Project

Nicaragua Center for Community Action (NICCA)

Nobel Women's Initiative

Oberlin Students in Solidarity with Guatemala (OSSGUA)

Oregon PeaceWorks

Partners for Arlington and Guatemala (PAG)

Pax Christi, Clinton Iowa

Peace and Justice Commission of St. Philip Neri Parish, Portland

People's Health Movement Canada/ Mouvement Populaire pour la Santé au Canada

Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC)

Queers for Climate Change

Rights Action

Rose Haven, Portland

Santa Elena Project of Accompaniment (SEPA)

School of Living

School of the Americas Watch, Los Angeles

Sister Parish, Inc.

Siti Maimunah, Mining Advocacy Network (JATAM), Indonesia

St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA)
Stuart Center for Mission, Educational Leadership & Technology
Task Force on the Americas
Universalist Church of Arlington, Virginia
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portland
Workers World Portland
Xun Biosphere Project

Cc:
Karolina Guay, Political Advisor of the Canadian Embassy in Guatemala
His Excellency Luis E. Arreaga, US Ambassador to Guatemala
His Excellency Carlos Humberto Jiménez Licona, Guatemalan Ambassador to Canada