



## Stop the Killings of Women in Guatemala



**STOP**  
Violence Against Women  
[amnestyusa.org/women](http://amnestyusa.org/women)



**STOP**  
Violence Against Women  
[amnestyusa.org/women](http://amnestyusa.org/women)

A Guatemala City newspaper shows photos of murdered women.  
© AP

POSTAGE  
24¢

Dear Ambassador Castillo,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the increasing number of women and girls brutally killed in Guatemala since 2001. To date, over 1,900 women and girls have been murdered. Yet according to the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, only 9% of cases have been investigated and many are simply archived. Lack of expertise in crime scene investigation and the discriminatory attitudes of some state authorities have further hampered investigation efforts.

I welcome Guatemala's recent creation of the National Commission to Address Femicide and the National Forensic Institute to aid investigations and the provisional suspension of discriminatory legal provisions such as Article 22 on sexual crimes. However, I am concerned at the lack of results thus far and at the persistent discrimination throughout the justice system in dealing with killings of women.

I call on you to become personally engaged and to urge the President of Guatemala to publicly condemn the abduction and murder of Guatemalan women and girls, to ensure that all officials have the resources to prevent the abduction and killing of women, and to carry out effective and successful investigations. I also call on you to press the President to encourage further progress by Guatemala's legislature to ensure that laws meet international standards, including those of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women.

Sincerely,

(name) \_\_\_\_\_

(address) \_\_\_\_\_

**The Honorable José Castillo**  
**Embassy of Guatemala**  
**2220 R Street, NW**  
**Washington, DC 20008**