Subject: Mr. Tamayo, G. Flores, O. Nájera

Las Cruces, USA, June 3, 2003,

Dear Minister,

I am writing you now deeply worried about the safety of Father José Andrés, of Gilberto Flores, and of Orlando Nájera. All of them have threaten to death: the mayor of Salamá called for the murder of Father José Andrés; according to reports, police guards have recently fired shots in the air outside the house of Orlando Nájera in the community of Ocotal, in Gualaco municipality.

I therefore demand that your administration take all necessary actions, in agreement with these persons, to protect Father José Andrés, Gilberto Flores, and Orlando Nájera. To make sure that these threats come to an end, an immediate and impartial investigation into this campaign of harassment must be ordered, its results must be made public and those responsible brought to justice. I’d like to remind you that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties, and in the equivalent declaration from the Organization of American States, request that human rights defenders to carry out their activities without any restrictions or fear of reprisals.

Thanking you in advance for your time on this important and urgent matter, I am respectfully,

Cc.: Comisionado Nacional de Protección de los Derechos Humanos (fax: 504 232 6894)
Comité de Familiares de Desaparecidos de Honduras (fax: +504 220 5280)
Ambassador Mario Miguel Canahuati ((202) 966 9751)