Ambassador Manuel Espina

Embassy of Guatemala

2220 R St. NW

Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador:

I am writing to you with great concern over the killings of human rights defenders Florencio Pérez Nájera and Alejandro Hernández García from the Campesino Development Committee (CODECA). They were violently murdered on 4 June.

Authorities must end this wave of killings. This is the sixth deadly attack against human rights defenders in Guatemala in less than a month, causing concern for the safety of all defenders across the country, including those in the Campesino Committee of the Highlands (CCDA). All the killings took place in a context of recurring violence against defenders working on rights related to land, territory, and the environment.

I respectfully request that you initiate a prompt, impartial, and thorough investigation of the killings of Florencio Pérez, Alejandro Hernández, and other human rights defenders. Furthermore, I urge you to take all appropriate measures to guarantee the safety of all CODECA and CCDA members at risk in accordance with their wishes. Finally, I call on you to condemn this wave of killings, to publicly recognize the important and legitimate work of all human rights defenders in Guatemala, and to refrain from using language that discredits, stigmatizes, abuses, or disparages them.

Yours sincerely,