

MEDIA RELEASE
Friday, December 30, 2005

WE ARE INDIGNANT!

We Condemn To The Highest The Degree The Barbaric Acts Alleged To Be Police And Uniformed Officers Of Guatemala!

It is sad to note that persons who are given the responsibility of safeguarding the lives of the people in the community and maintaining peace and order ARE THE LAW BREAKERS THEMSELVES!

The death of Paulina and shooting of Sulma are examples of abuse of power! We are sad and we condemn those perpetrators that has caused her death and endangering the life of all other travestis/transgenders who do sex work!

THIS IS A DISGRACE and slap to the Guatemalan Government being a country signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Maybe since the declaration has been made and was ratified in 1948 they have long forgotten the principles which they adhered to.

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, states, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person," a fundamental principle recognizing the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family construed as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

How could we achieve lasting peace when the persons who are given the task ensure that these rights are safeguarded would be the one to violate it.

One of the Pillars of the Criminal Justice System are POLICE ENFORCERS. How could we feel safe? How could we not fear for our lives under their hands when law and justice are placed within the power of their guns! THESE BARBAROUS ACTS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED! This is a highest contempt of disrespect of our human rights!

WE THEREFORE, APPEAL TO THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT to look into this case with utmost care and immediate attention and let the RULE OF LAW GOVERN and achieve JUSTICE FOR THE DEATH OF PAULINA!

We also call for protection and justice for Sulma, another transgender sex worker who was shot in the head and witnessed the death of Paulina.

LET THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIVES B E UPHELD! JUSTICE AND EQUITY FOR A LASTING PEACE!

Ms. Tonette Lopez
for APNSW and NSWP

[See [Fear for safety](#): LGBT activist shot, witness in danger —Amnesty International press release, Guatemala, December 21, 2005.]