

**American Indian
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Letter To:

**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for
Human Rights (OHCHR) - Central America**

Attn: Ms. Michelle Bachelet Jeria

House of the United Nations,

Temporary offices:

City of Knowledge, Building 104 - Innova 104

Dear Ms. Michelle Bachelet Jeria,

We send you this urgent request for your immediate response and action in the protection of our Indigenous sister **Margot Pérez**, leader and spokesperson for the **Network of the Smiling Jaguar of Indigenous Peoples** in El Salvador. **Ms. Margot Perez** is from the western zone of El Salvador in Nahuizalco. She is an advocate for our Indigenous Peoples and a protector of sacred elements such as lands and rivers that we all depend upon for life.

Ms. Margot Perez has had to flee her home community of Nahuizalco and is now in hiding, and in grave danger for her life. Reports are that the military police in Nahuizalco had been harassing **Jose Alfredo Hernandez**, brother-in-law to **Margot Perez**. The military police have been extorting him for money and demanding that he reveal the whereabouts of **Nano Margo Perez**.

When he did not submit, **Jose Alfredo Hernandez** was shot five times and murdered by military police on May 3rd, 2019.

At this moment, **Maria Magdalena Perez** (wife of Jose Alfredo Hernandez) is also in immediate danger and exposure as well as her three children Wendy Magdalena, Estefany Gabriela, and Soe Valentina.

The assassins who killed Jose Alfredo Hernandez on May 3rd are known killers at the service of the corrupt local authorities who have been operating with impunity in El Salvador since the Matanza of '32.

Hired assassins have threatened Margot Perez at the service of the hydroelectric power plants. The protection of life and the protection of people must be a priority for the state, but in this case, we only see a failed, blind, deaf and mute state. Therefore, we condemn the persecution of Margot Pérez and the cowardly murder of her brother-in-law José Alfredo Hernández, which occurred on May 3rd, 2019, in the city of Nahuizalco, El Salvador.

Sincerely yours,

American Indian Law
Alliance is an NGO in
consultative status with the
United Nations Economic &
Social Council (ECOSOC).

**Gaeñ hia uh/Betty Lyons
Executive Director**