**NAME, A#**

**EXHIBIT LIST OF DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF FORM I-589 APPLICATION**

**Tab Page**

1. **Birth certificate of Respondent with English translation**
2. **Marriage certificate of Respondent with English translation**
3. **Birth certificates of Respondent and husband’s sons with English translation**
4. **Letter from X, mother of Respondent with English translation**
5. **Letter from X, son of Respondent with English translation**
6. **United States Department of State, *2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - Guatemala*, Feb. 27, 2014**

http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2013&dlid=220447

“The law criminalizes rape, including spousal rape, and sets penalties between five and 50 years in prison. Police, however, had minimal training or capacity to investigate sexual crimes or assist victims of such crimes, and the government did not enforce the law effectively…Impunity for perpetrators remained at very high levels. Rape victims frequently did not report crimes due to lack of confidence in the justice system, social stigma, and/or fear of reprisal.

“Rape and other sexual offenses remained serious problems. According to the Public Ministry, there were 2,156 cases of sexual or physical assault reported through September.

“Violence against women, including domestic violence, remained a serious problem…The PNC [National Civil Police] often failed to respond to requests for assistance related to domestic violence, and women’s rights advocates reported few officers received training to deal with domestic violence or assist victims.

“Femicide affected both women and girls and remained a major problem. In most killings, sexual assault, torture, and mutilation were evident. The Public Ministry reported 419 killings of women as of the end of September. The conviction rate was only 1 to 2 percent for femicide.

“The Public Ministry reported there were 6,880 complaints of intrafamily violence against women and children as of September 30. The government reported 152 convictions in cases of intrafamily violence against women and children as of the end of September.

“Although the law affords protection, including shelter, to victims of domestic violence, there were insufficient facilities for this purpose.

“The Office of the Ombudsman for Indigenous Women within COPREDEH…coordinated and promoted action by government institutions and NGOs to prevent violence and discrimination against indigenous women, but it lacked human resources and logistical capacity to perform its functions on a national level. The office maintained no statistics on its caseload.

“The law does not prohibit sexual harassment, and there were no accurate estimates of its occurrence. Human rights organizations reported, however, that sexual harassment was widespread across all sectors.

“[P]rovision of health services in remote areas and in indigenous languages was limited.

“Cultural, geographic, and linguistic barriers existed in access to reproductive health care, particularly for indigenous women in rural areas. Discriminatory attitudes among health-care providers and a lack of culturally sensitive reproductive and maternal health-care services also deterred many indigenous women from accessing these services. The UNFPA estimated that in 2010 the maternal mortality rate was 120 deaths per 100,000 live births. The principal causes of maternal mortality included limited access to skilled health-care attendants and, in some instances, poor prenatal and postnatal care.

“The 2012 Global Gender Gap Report estimated that earned income of women was 44 percent that of men; women on average received 60 percent of men’s salaries for comparable work.”

“The National Institute of Statistics estimated that indigenous persons from 22 ethnic groups constituted 43 percent of the population…Indigenous communities were not regularly consulted on or able to participate in decisions affecting the exploitation of resources in their communities, including energy, minerals, timber, or other natural resources. Mayan indigenous communities continued to report a lack of public infrastructure investment in their communities, leading to poor roads and limited access to running water and electricity.

“Indigenous persons were underrepresented in national politics and remained largely outside the country’s political, economic, social, and cultural mainstream. These factors contributed to economic barriers leading to continued disproportionate poverty among most indigenous populations.

“More than 50 percent of indigenous women over the age of 15 were illiterate, and a disproportionate number of indigenous girls did not attend school.”

1. **Expert Declaration from Elisa Portillo Najera, an expert on Gender Discrimination in Guatemala, signed February 2012**

Ms. Portillo Najera describes the entrenched biases regarding the status of women in Guatemala, the inadequacies of the legal system in Guatemala, and why women are unable to escape abuse despite some changes in the law.

“This law [Law Against Femicide and Other Forms of Violence Against Women] provides protective measures for women facing violence, as well as criminal sanctions to punish perpetrators of violence. As described below, neither this principal law nor any other law in the Guatemalan legal system has reduced violence against women or the impunity that perpetrators enjoy when they commit this violence.”

She describes that women who turn to law enforcement do not receive adequate protection, and that the epidemic of murders of women stems from deeply entrenched gender bias, misogyny, objectification of women, and rampant impunity. She explains that for victims of this type of violence, relocation within Guatemala is not a viable option.

“In Guatemalan culture, it is widely accepted that a man has the right to abuse his partner. Women are expected to endure such violence, because it is viewed as normal. The abuse stems from a culture that places a man at the tip of a hierarchy granting him control over all aspects of a woman’s life, from her economic situation, to her politics, to her sexuality.”

1. **Karen Musalo & Blaine Bookey, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, University of California, Hastings College of the Law, “Crimes Without Punishment:** **An Update on Violence Against Women and Impunity in Guatemala, 10 Hastings Race & Poverty L.J. 265 (2013)**

http://cgrs.uchastings.edu/sites/default/files/Musalo\_Bookey\_CrimesWithoutPunishment\_2013.pdf

“Guatemala has one of the highest rates of femicide, or gender motivated killing of women, in the world. It is estimated that more than 6,500 women have been the victims of violent killings since 2000, and thousands more raped and battered.

“The Guatemala Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated in its latest report that femicide and gender-based violence are ‘of utmost concern’ and that ‘[t]he cruelty with which some of these crimes [have been perpetrated [in Guatemala] shows how deeply rooted patterns of discrimination are in society, and also reveals the lack of institutional measures to tackle them.’

“Moreover, studies highlight the correlation between domestic violence and femicide in the country, demonstrating the dire consequences of the State’s unsuccessful interventions.

“There is wide consensus that violence against women is a serious problem in Guatemala and that the government has yet to develop an effective response. This view is shared by international human rights bodies, foreign governments (the United States included), and NGOs that have investigated and considered the issue of violence against women in Guatemala.

“Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, among other NGOs, likewise report that violence against women is a “chronic problem in Guatemala” and that few perpetrators are brought to justice. Some entities within the Guatemalan government itself echo these concerns.”

“Notwithstanding the passage of targeted legislation aimed at eradicating violence against women in Guatemala—which has increased awareness about violence against women in Guatemala and affirmed the State’s obligations to address it—alarming levels of violence and impunity for such violence persist. Experts attribute this to a failure to effectively implement the laws, which results from a lack of political will on the part of some actors in the government, and a paucity of resources.

“Under these circumstances, the women confront discrimination in the justice system as a result not only of their gender, but also of their ethnicity. Although social norms throughout the country discourage women from standing up to their abusers, the pressure is even greater in indigenous communities, where there is strong community pressure not to denounce violence and to stay with their abusers.”

1. **Human Rights Watch, World Report 2014: Guatemala, Jan. 21, 2014**

<http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014/country-chapters/guatemala>

“Powerful criminal organizations engage in widespread acts of violence and extortion. The intimidation and corruption of justice system officials, as well as the absence of an effective witness protection program, contribute to high levels of impunity. Frustrated with the lack of criminal enforcement, some communities have resorted to vigilantism. According to the Human Rights Ombudsman, 23 people were killed in lynchings in 2012, and another six by February 2013.”

“Violence against women and girls is a chronic problem in Guatemala and perpetrators rarely face trial. According to official figure quoted by Guatemala’s Human Rights Ombudsman’s Office, reported rapes and sexual assaults of women and girls increased by more than a third between 2008 and 2011, while in more than 9 of every 10 of these cases, those responsible were not punished.”

“The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights’ (IACHR) rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples carried out a working visit to Guatemala in August 2013, and expressed concern that licenses for mining and hydroelectric plants had been granted without properly consulting affected indigenous communities, as required by international law.”

1. UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Country of Origin Series: Guatemala: Background Paper, Oct. 2013 *(only excerpts included)*

http://www.refworld.org/docid/53832fe84.html

“Violent deaths of women constitute one of the major violations of the right to life; brutality and signs of torture characterize these homicides. According to data systematized by the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office (PDH), drawing on sources such as the National Civilian Police, the judiciary system, and the National Institute of Forensic Science (INACIF), during the period from 2009 to 2012 the number of violent deaths of women steadily increased. The PDH affirms that “These levels continue because of a permanent gender-based violence that does not depend on time-sensitive situations or on social transformations or other factors that feed into social violence; the extent of brutality and signs of torture that female victims show on their bodies allows us to conclude that this phenomenon is related to misogyny.

“In summary, the PDH emphasizes: ‘Even though sanctions have increased over the last four years, this violence continues to be highly prevalent, in terms of both sexual violence, whose main victims are girls and female adolescents, and femicide, a phenomenon that demonstrates unprecedented levels of brutality, in that the victims' bodies display signs of torture, including even dismemberment, in a show of total contempt for their humanity; there is to date no discernible efficient crime policy under which the State would prevent, investigate, and sanction this violation of the right to life and personal integrity.’”

1. Amnesty International, Guatemala’s War on Women, January 2013 74-75

http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/guatemala-s-war-women-2013-01-21

“Despite promises made by successive Presidents to fight crime and violence against women and a law passed by Congress in 2008 for the establishment of special tribunals and sentencing guidelines, the figures continue to tell a different story. In 2012 alone, and according to official figures, around 560 women were murdered across the Central American country, many after being sexually assaulted. Most cases are not effectively investigated and less than four per cent of all homicides in Guatemala result in perpetrators being convicted.”

1. **Thomson Reuters Foundation, Guatemala: An opportunity for gender justice?, May 2013 10-12**

http://www.trust.org/item/20130501130008-12vyz/?source%20=%20hppartner

“Former general Ríos Montt led a coup in Guatemala on March 23, 1982. After he took power, he perpetuated the Guatemalan genocide with the goal of destroying the Mayan population. In Guatemala, as in all s and wars throughout history, sexual violence and rape of women was used to carry out genocide.”

“We often hear that women are the spoils of war, and now we have the chance not only to take a moment to reflect on what that means, but also to prevent these crimes from going unpunished. For women to be the spoils of war meant that in Guatemala, Mayan girls and women young and old were systematically raped.”

“That is, not in isolated cases, not by some soldier who got carried away—they were raped repeatedly by many men after the massacres of the community, when they were taken to military posts, when they were running through the mountains to flee certain death. Thousands of women were subjected to sexual violence in front of their partners, in front of their family, in front of soldiers who missed no opportunity to rape them too after watching their comrades.”

1. **Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2013: Guatemala 62-67**

https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2013/guatemala#.VH4JedLF\_To

“Guatemala remains one of the most violent countries in Latin America. Over 5,400 people were murdered in 2012. Violence related to the shipment of drugs from South America to the United States has spilled over the border from Mexico, with rival Mexican and Guatemalan drug trafficking organizations battling for territory. These groups have operated with impunity in the northern jungles, which serve as a storage and transit hub for cocaine en route to the United States.”

“The constitution prohibits discrimination based on gender, though gender inequalities persist in practice. Sexual harassment in the workplace is not penalized. Young women who migrate to the capital for work are especially vulnerable to harassment and inhumane labor conditions. Physical and sexual violence against women and children, including domestic violence, remain widespread, with perpetrators rarely prosecuted. While Guatemala now has its first female attorney general, police reform commissioner, and vice president, women remain underrepresented in politics and hold just 13 percent of the seats in Congress.”

1. Amnesty International Annual Report: Guatemala 2012. May 2012 78-79

http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/guatemala/report-2012

“According to the authorities, 631women were the victims of homicide during the year. The 2008 Law against Femicide and Other Forms of Violence against Women which, among other things, introduced special courts for violence against women, seemed to have had little impact on either reducing violence against women or holding those responsible to account.”

1. Amnesty International, Time to end the inaction over killings of women in Guatemala, January 2013 80-81

http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/time-end-inaction-over-killings-women-guatemala-2013-01-17

“Authorities in Guatemala are putting the lives of women at risk by systematically failing to protect them and ensure those responsible for the hundreds of killings that take place each year face justice.”

1. **The Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Defense of Women's Rights** (**CLADEM) The Administration of Justice, From a Women’s Human Rights Perspective: The Case of Guatemala, February 2013 140-148**

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/AccesstoJustice/CLADEM.pdf

“Justice is a value far greater than the written law and encompasses many aspects. For women, especially in Guatemala, in “theory” the right to have access to justice is recognized and protected by the State in the Constitution of the Republic and developed in other legislation.”

“For change to come, women’s human rights need to be rooted in the recognition in the culture, the set of values of the party State, and violence against women should not be acceptable condoned or tolerated by silence, under any circumstance. This is the case for Guatemala and which is resulting in an increase of femicides.”

“All though legislation has been issued and is in effect, the patriarchy swindles its way through the application of the law and uses any legalist tactic to sustain its hierarchy.”

“Guatemala, a middle income country located in Central America made up of a population of approximately 14 million3 is one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a woman, femicide rates are on a constant rise.”

“Despite the important steps taken by the approval of the law, currently in effect, the lives of women are on a constant threat. There are important factors that contribute to this problem. To begin, it is a well known fact that the patriarchy is entrenched in the “machista” culture in Guatemala, discrimination against women is the basis of it. The culture has not been targeted and more so, the justice system has not rehabilitated the victims and perpetrators.”

“It is for this reason alone that the enforcement of the law has been greatly challenged. The courtrooms have become places where there is a reinforcement of a bias against women, even in the specialized courts. This has resulted in discrimination against woman, to access justice. Most of the government officials including judges, attorneys forensic experts, and the overall participants, in general, are not convinced that women are entitle to their human rights, including a life without violence, at the cost of modifying the male dominated culture, which translates in gaining control and autonomy for women.”

1. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Guatemala: Domestic violence, including legislation, state protection, and services available to victims, May 14, 2012 113-121

http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=4fc4aa872

“However, sources indicate that domestic violence is regarded by the police as a "private matter”. Further, when contacted with complaints of domestic violence, police are "slow" to respond and sometimes they fail to appear at all. Similarly, the CGRS director states that many police officers do not see violence against women as a serious crime. Moreover, authorities who receive domestic violence complaints often fail to refer them for investigations to the Public Prosecutor's Office. Two sources indicate that the police force lacks training on how to deal with victims of domestic violence. The Guatemala Human Rights Commission (GHRC) further indicates that the police force is understaffed and is "notoriously corrupt.” (internal citations omitted)

“However, sources indicate that the judicial system fails to provide adequate protection. Several sources state that, despite the 2008 law, there is a high rate of impunity for crimes against women. Sources indicate that the rate of impunity is in the vicinity of 98 percent According to the GHRC, after the law was implemented in 2008, the number of women killed continued to grow . The report states that, according to the Human Rights Ombudsman, "crimes against women are not recognized, not investigated, and not brought to justice". (internal citations omitted)

“Sources report that, very often, blame is assigned to the victims of crime. Women are regarded as "unfaithful and dishonest". Although it is not prescribed by law, prosecutors regularly require women to undergo lie-detector tests.” (internal citations omitted)

“Two sources indicate that it is "very difficult" for victims of domestic violence to escape a situation by relocating to other areas of Guatemala due to a lack of housing, insufficient income (Guatemala 2 May 2012; Mujeres en Acción 17 Apr. 2012), a lack of education and a dearth of employment opportunities (ibid.).”

1. Peace and Monitor, Special Report: The Perfect Storm: Impunity and Violence against Women in Guatemala, Apr. 1, 2012

http://www.monitor.upeace.org/archive.cfm?id\_article=893

“The United Nations Truth Commission, as well as other reports and investigations into the era violence have clearly documented specific military strategies aimed at humiliating and destroying women, particularly indigenous women, during the . Specific tactics were taught to soldiers and members of the civilian defense patrols to suppress the guerilla forces by specifically attacking and destroying the women, seen as the source of new guerilla members and the continuance of a the Mayan race. These military strategies were later declared by the U.N. as a state policy of genocide against the Mayan people.

“Characteristics of these military strategies can be seen in many of the femicide cases, for example the brutality and different torture tactics against the victims that attack their femininity and reproductive capacity. The tactics used by the military during the were a ‘premeditated strategy of violence specifically targeting women.’ This premeditated strategy of attacking women is part of the basis for proving the Guatemalan government’s policy of genocide. The military’s strategies of targeting women reached such a large portion of the male population, normalizing rape and violence against women. The residual effect of these genocidal policies and strategies can be seen in the rate and type of violence in Guatemala today.

“While there does not seem to be a specific profile of a femicide victim, they are usually young women and girls between the ages 12 and 30. They include university students, housewives, factory workers, domestic employees, and professionals. They are kidnapped on the way to and from work, school, and parties. They are killed in the home by family members, and on the streets and in parks. Victims have suffered sexual assault, torture, and mutilation targeting their face or reproductive organs, denoting a specific attack against their femininity.

“Femicide victims are often murdered by their family members and partners as an extreme form of domestic violence. However, many of the cases suggest less personal patterns of violence. The Guatemalan Human Rights Commission-USA reports on their website that twenty-three police officers have been linked to ten murders, ‘fueling the suspicion of many Guatemalan analysts that clandestine security forces linked to the police and to the army are murdering women with such brutality to foment political instability and a climate of terror.’ The brutal violence is intended to send a message of terror and intimidation.

“For example, when the police respond to a femicide case, they often refuse to take evidence or open an investigation because the victim was wearing a short skirt or bellybutton ring and suggest that she must have been ‘asking for it’. The police will also often say that the victim is not worth an investigation because she is a ‘nobody’. This sends the message that ‘a woman must be eternally on guard, lest she brings sexual assault onto herself.’ Violence of this magnitude encourages women to be ‘good’ women and stay in the home ‘where they belong’. By keeping women in the home, they remain unable to become economically independent from the men. A United Nations report on woman states: ‘Violence against women and girls is both an extreme manifestation of gender inequality and discrimination, and a deadly tool used to maintain women’s subordinate status.’”

1. **Nobel Women’s Initiative, *From Survivors to Defenders: Women Confronting Violence in Mexico, Honduras & Guatemala*, 2012. *(only excerpts included)***

http://nobelwomensinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Report\_AmericasDelgation-20121.pdf

*Jody Williams and Rigorberta Menchu Tum:* “The war on drugs in Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala has become a war on women. Efforts to improve ‘security’ have only led to greater militarization, rampant corruption and abuse within police forces and an erosion of rule of law. Ultimately, it has resulted in a crisis of insecurity where no one is safe.”

“Women are increasingly the victims of violence that reflects the discrimination they suffer in society, viewing them as objects for manipulation and subjecting them to gender-specific forms of violence that are particularly cruel and demeaning. Both governments and non-state actors are systematically committing crimes against women – and the perpetrators are rarely brought to justice. We found that the three governments sustain policies and practices that work against human rights in general, and deny the rights of women.”

“We found that the three governments are directly responsible for the failure to protect women and women human rights defenders and for the commission of crimes against women.”

“In Guatemala the surge of femicides demonstrates that peace is not just the cessation of war. … Weak institutions and new factors of have lead to a climate of danger for women.”

1. Journal of International Women’s Studies, Women Under Attack: Violence and Poverty in Guatemala, January 2011 126-139

http://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1081&context=jiws

“Although in the past year violence has increased in Guatemala regardless of gender, the murders of women are particularly alarming because of their misogynistic nature and because of the disproportionate rate at which they are increasing. While most of the murdered men in Guatemala were killed “with no intimate physical contact between the victim and the perpetrator,” the majority of murders of women were marked by rape, torture, and mutilation. According to Angélica González of Guatemala’s Network to Oppose Violence Against Women, “sexual aggression, the mutilation of body parts like breasts, torture, and the dumping of victims in empty lots are trademarks of the killings.”

“The widespread occurrence of violence against women in Guatemala is not only criminal behavior and a violation of women’s rights, but also generates a deep sense of insecurity for women.”

“The problem is exacerbated by the social stigma associated with domestic or sexual violence, which sentences women to silence and prevents reporting or talking about the crime. Moreover, women who experience sexual violence are often ostracized by their relatives and community, which in turn leads to even more isolation and negative consequences.”

“As the UN General Secretary explains: Women who experience violence suffer a range of health problems and their ability to earn a living and to participate in public life is diminished. Their children are significantly more at risk for health problems, poor school performance and behavioural disturbances…Women who are targeted for violence are less likely to be employed, tend to be employed in low status jobs and are unlikely to be promoted.”

“Violence against women ultimately paralyzes women, deprives the family of needed sources of income and emotional strength, and limits the country’s development as a whole.”

“Additionally, systematic weaknesses within the judicial system and the failure of authorities to investigate crimes and prosecute criminals create a culture of impunity and fearlessness in perpetrators. This “compounds the effects of such violence as a mechanism of control.”

1. International Business Times, Half the Sky is Falling: Systemic Violence Against Women in Guatemala Ripples From Brutal Civil War, January 2013 155-157

http://www.ibtimes.com/half-sky-falling-systemic-violence-against-women-guatemala-ripples-brutal-civil-war-1024178

“Women are one of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in Guatemala,” she added. “The ways in which they are targeted have been much more brutal then with men … and there has been a systemic bias against women within the judicial system when it comes to prosecuting crimes.”

“In 2011, some 700 women were murdered, many of whom were also sexually assaulted, their bodies then mutilated and left in public view. Many of them are believed to have been targeted as a method of retaliation and intimidation between rival gangs and larger criminal organizations, but a vast majority are victims of domestic violence.”

“Much of this violence and the institutionalized prejudice against women is rooted in Guatemala’s traumatic and drawn-out civil war between the government and various leftist militant groups that lasted from 1960 until 1996, during which more than 200,000 people were killed or forcibly disappeared.”

1. **The Guardian, Guatemalan war rape survivors: “We have no voice”, July 2011 13-15**

http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2011/jul/28/guatemalan-women-mass-rape-give-evidence

“Horrific as it sounds, the 58-year-old's story is not a one-off. Between 1960 and 1996 more than 100,000 women were victims of mass rape in the Guatemalan civil war, between CIA-backed rightwing generals and leftwing insurgents, that evetually left 200,000 dead. After General Jose Efraín Ríos Montt grabbed power in a 1982 coup, it reached fresh peaks of brutality. Many victims, such as Sic, were indigenous Mayans, who were caught in the crossfire, accused of collaborating with the guerrillas or targeted simply because their ethnic group became seen as the enemy.”

“Spain's national court has agreed to investigate the mass rapes and gender violence as part of the generals' alleged strategy to wipe out a large part of the Mayan population. The investigating magistrate Santiago Pedraz said on Wednesday the rapes appeared to be part of a campaign of terror designed to destroy Mayan society – with soldiers instructed to carry them out.”

1. **PBS Newshour, Timeline: Guatemala’s Brutal Civil War, March 2011 16-18**

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/latin\_america-jan-june11-timeline\_03-07/

“Over and over again in our reporting, the legacy of brutality left by decades of civil war was referenced as a major contributor to both the abuse and murder of women in Guatemala and the general attitude of impunity with which many violent crimes are committed in Guatemala.”

“Almost 15 years after the end of the civil war, violence and intimidation continue to be a major problem in political and civilian life.”

1. H. Res. 100 In the House of Representatives, U. S., May 1, 2007. 203-208

“Whereas Guatemalan women were among the victims during the 36-year Guatemalan internal armed which ended with the signing of the 1996 Peace Accords and ushered in the process of reconciliation;

Whereas since 2001, more than 2,000 women and girls have been murdered in Guatemala often preceded by abduction, sexual assault, or brutal mutilation;

Whereas from 2001 to 2006, the rate at which women and girls have been murdered in Guatemala has increased sharply, at a higher rate than the murder rate of men in Guatemala during the same period;

…Whereas the manner and rate of murders of Guatemalan women and girls suggests an increase in gender based killings, an extreme of violence against women that can include torture, mutilation, and sexual violence;

Whereas, according to data from Guatemala’s Public Prosecutors Office, few arrests and fewer convictions have taken place, leading to accusations that police, prosecutors, forensics experts, ad other state justice officials have not brought the perpetrators to justice;

Whereas inadequate financial, human, and technical resources, as well as a lack of forensic and technical expertise, has complicated the arrest and prosecution of suspects;

…Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

…(12) recommends that the United States Ambassador to Guatemala continue to meet with the families of the victims, women’s rights organizations, and Guatemalan officials responsible for investigating these crimes and preventing such future crimes; and

(13) recommends that the Secretary of State develop a comprehensive plan to address and combat the growing problem of violence against women in Latin America.” (Emphasis added.)

1. S. Res. 178 In the House of Representatives, U. S., May 1, 2007. 209-216

“Expressing the sympathy of the Senate to the families of women and girls murdered in Guatemala, and encouraging the United States to work with Guatemala to bring an end to these crimes.

Whereas, since 2001, more than 2,000 women and girls have been murdered in Guatemala;

Whereas most of the victims are women ranging in age from 18 to 30, with many of the cases involving abduction, sexual violence, or brutal mutilation;

…Whereas, from 2001 to 2006, there were only 20 convictions for the murders of women and girls;

…Resolved, That the Senate—

…(3) condemns the ongoing murders of women and girls in Guatemala, and encourages the Government of Guatemala to act with due diligence in order to promptly investigate these killings, prosecute those responsible, and continue to work toward eliminating violence against women;

(4) urges the Government of Guatemala to recognize domestic violence and sexual harassment as criminal acts and to provide the resources and commitment necessary to strengthen the integrity of the prosecutorial and judicial systems;

…(6) encourages the Secretary of State to support efforts by the Government of Guatemala to train and equip the special police and prosecutorial units of the government of Guatemala to conduct through and proper investigations of crimes of violence against women, and to implement judicial reform and rule of law programs;

…(13) recommends that the Secretary of State develop a comprehensive plan to address and combat the growing problem of violence against women in Latin America.” (Emphasis added.)

1. Department of Homeland Security’s Supplemental Brief in *Matter of L-R-*