



For Immediate Release
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CJA Urges Genocide Trial of Former Guatemalan Military Dictator to Proceed Exeditiously

The Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA) welcomes the news that the trial of Guatemala's former military ruler General Efraín Ríos Montt resumed today. We also welcome the court's decision to reject General Ríos Montt's motion to delay the trial due to his health and reports that the court has determined that amnesty does not apply to the ex-dictator. The court has suspended the trial temporarily as one of the judges has recused herself, but we hope and expect that the trial will resume forthwith.

CJA's international attorney, Almudena Bernabeu, lead counsel in the *Guatemala Genocide Case* in Spain, said: "The survivors of genocide in Guatemala deserve justice, justice that has been too long delayed. We believed justice was properly delivered on May 10, 2013, but if a new trial is warranted, CJA will be there to support the victims in their tireless pursuit for justice."

General Ríos Montt, 88, was convicted of genocide and war crimes in May 2013 and sentenced to 80 years in jail for the genocide of the Mayan-Ixil community during his reign. The conviction was overturned by Guatemala's Constitutional Court shortly thereafter, ruling that General Ríos Montt had been denied due process. An open question was whether the amnesty agreement established shortly after his ouster as President was valid. Although we are awaiting an official decision, this past weekend the Constitutional Court stated that the amnesty agreement was not valid.

It is expected that General Ríos Montt attorneys will file motions to further delay the trial due to General Ríos Montt's illness, as they did in 2013. CJA urges the court to proceed with all due consideration so that this dark chapter in Guatemala's history can be finally laid to rest.

CJA leads a criminal case against General Ríos Montt before the Spanish National Court and represents over 20 Mayan-Ixil survivors of the genocide in Guatemala. CJA has worked closely with civil society groups in Guatemala, including the Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH) and the Human Rights Prosecutors Unit in the Attorney General's Office to ensure justice against those responsible for the Mayan-Ixil genocide.

About the Center for Justice and Accountability

CJA is a San Francisco-based human rights organization dedicated to deterring torture and other severe human rights abuses around the world and advancing the rights of survivors to seek truth, justice and redress. CJA uses litigation to hold perpetrators individually accountable for human rights abuses, develop human rights law, and advance the rule of law in countries transitioning

from periods of abuse. www.cja.org