



For Immediate Release  
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### **Victory in Guatemala Court Serves as Model for Justice**

CJA welcomes the news that yesterday, after a trial that lasted a few months, a Guatemalan court [found ex-police chief Pedro Garcia Arredondo](#) guilty of murder, attempted murder and crimes against humanity for the 1980 massacre of 37 people at the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala during Guatemala's civil war.

Almudena Bernabeu, CJA International Attorney & Transitional Justice Director, said: "I am moved that there is finally some justice regarding the events at the Spanish Embassy after all these years and all the efforts. Rigoberta Menchú's strength and coherence are admirable. Given recent disappointing events around the trial against Ríos Montt, this decision brings a great deal of hope for the victims."

In 1999, Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum filed a criminal case before the Spanish National Court against Pedro Arredondo and others for the death of her father who was massacred at the Spanish Embassy along with other 36 people. CJA joined the case after the Rigoberta Menchú Foundation requested us to investigate the embassy assault and those responsible.

In 2006, CJA led the case expanding it to become the [Guatemala Genocide Case](#) for the abuses committed against the Mayan population after all chances for justice in Guatemala had been shuttered. On behalf of the plaintiffs, CJA brought crucial evidence and in July 2006 Judge Santiago Pedraz issued international arrest warrants for Pedro Arredondo and seven other defendants, which secured Arredondo's arrest and made this most recent decision possible.

CJA continues to work on the *Guatemala Genocide Case* before the Spanish National Court and we hope that other perpetrators will also face the court of law and finally be held to account.

#### **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](http://www.cja.org)

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