

Canada co-sponsored a resolution at the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva last spring to maintain international scrutiny on the human rights situation in Guatemala. We welcome the appointment, earlier this year, of Ramiro de Leon Carpio as Guatemala's human rights procurator and the apparent seriousness with which he is pursuing his mandate. We hope he can be effective in investigating and prosecuting the perpetrators of human rights abuses in Guatemala.

In October, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, met with Nineth de Garcia, President of the Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo (GAM) and pledged Canada's moral support for GAM and the people of Guatemala in their efforts to end the abuse of human rights in their country.

The Government of Canada hosted a round of peace negotiations in Ottawa in late August between the National Reconciliation Commission, the insurgency and the private sector, and is encouraged that all parties in the national reconciliation process in Guatemala are constructively continuing their negotiations.