

News Release

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CANADA DEPLORES MASSACRE IN GUATEMALA

The following statement was released today by the Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart:

"Canada strongly condemns yesterday's massacre by Guatemalan soldiers of former refugees of the community 'Aurora October 8' at the municipality of Chisec, Alta Verapaz in Guatemala.

"This tragic incident is an indication of the fragile nature of the peace process in Guatemala and the urgent requirement for the international community to continue its support for efforts to bring about lasting peace and democracy.

"This morning, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade conveyed these concerns to the Guatemalan Ambassador.

"Respect for human rights remains at the centre of Canada's relations with Guatemala. The Government of Canada is working with the international community to support the peace process and to build a democratic society with full respect for human rights. Canada will continue to insist that the Guatemalan government ensure that its army complies with Guatemala's human rights obligations."

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