

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death threats

3 July 1995

EL SALVADOR Dr Francisco CARILLO, director of FUNDASIDA
and other members of FUNDASIDA, a non-governmental AIDS
organization

Amnesty International fears for the safety of the director and staff of FUNDASIDA, a non-governmental AIDS organization in San Salvador, after receiving reports that they have been subjected to a series of death threats.

On 24 June 1995 three armed men reportedly raided the FUNDASIDA offices, looking for its director, Dr Francisco Carillo. He was not there, but the three men told those who were, including 10 youngsters taking part in a workshop on HIV prevention, three health workers and a secretary, that they wanted to see Dr Carillo "because he owes us something and we are going to kill him". The men then left, allegedly taking with them a television set, a personal computer, a typewriter, as well as papers and confidential documents.

On 26 June, the telephonist at FUNDASIDA is reported to have received a phone call, in which the caller asked her: "Do you want to die?... then, prepare yourselves, today at 3pm". Dr. Carillo has also received threatening phone calls at his home. These usually take place after midnight and although no one speaks, the caller remains on the line for a few moments and then hangs up. The last reported call was in the early hours of 29 June.

The threats and raid have been reported to the police and to the Commission of Human Rights.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During October and November 1994, AIDS worker Wilfredo Valencia Palacios, Deputy Director of the Oscar Romero AIDS Project in El Salvador, was threatened with death in the street by unidentified armed men, believed to belong to an anti-homosexual death squad (see *El Salvador: Aids worker in danger*, AMR 29/13/94, December 1994). Death squads, largely made up of police and military personnel, were an instrument of large-scale governmental repression against the opposition during El Salvador's armed conflict. Although the end of the conflict in 1992 brought radical reforms to the police and army, clandestine structures carrying out death squad-style killings appear to have persisted.

The *Grupo Conjunto*, a UN-appointed commission set up to investigate politically-motivated activities of illegal armed groups, presented its report in July 1994. The *Grupo Conjunto* stated that, although it had concluded its mission in El Salvador, the death-squad chapter was still not closed and it reminded the authorities of its responsibility to continue investigating and bringing to justice those involved in such activities.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters either in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the death threats received by members of FUNDASIDA, in particular those made against Dr. Francisco Carillo, its director, following a raid of their offices by three armed men on 24 June 1995;
- requesting that measures be taken to guarantee the safety of Dr Francisco Carillo, other members of FUNDASIDA and all those working with AIDS groups in the country;

- calling on the authorities to make clear their condemnation of the threats and urging a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation and that those found responsible are brought to justice;
- asking what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations of the *Grupo Conjunto* with regard to the eradication of the "death squad"-style groups.

APPEALS TO

1) President of the Republic

S.E. Dr Armando Calderón Sol
Presidente de la República, Casa Presidencial,
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Presidente Calderón Sol, San Salvador, El Salvador

Telexes: 30344 RS SAL

Faxes: +503 271-2947 / 271-1334 / 221-4532

Salutation: Sr Presidente / Dear President

2) National Counsel for the Defense of Human Rights

Dr. Carlos M. Molina Fonseca
Procurador para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
9a. Ave Norte y 5a. Calle Pte. Edificio AMSA, No 535
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Procurador DDHH, San Salvador, El Salvador

Faxes: +503 2 71 2886

Salutation: Sr Procurador / Dear Procurator

3) Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Oscar Alfredo Santamaría
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Boulevard Manuel Enrique Araujo Km.6
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, San Salvador, El Salvador

Faxes: +503 2 98 0334 / 98 0314

Telexes: 20179 RREE SAL

Salutation: Sr Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Non-governmental organization

FUNDASIDA

23 Calle Pte. No 1155
San Salvador
El Salvador

2) Daily newspapers

Diario Latino

23 Av. Sur N° 225
Apartado Postal 96
San Salvador, El Salvador

La Prensa Gráfica

3ª Calle Poniente, N° 130

San Salvador, El Salvador

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 August 1995.