

PUBLIC
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Fear for Safety/Death Threats

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20 December 2002

**EL SALVADOR Beatrice Alamanni de Carrillo (f) *Procuradora para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos* (PDDH), Human Rights Procurator in El Salvador
Staff members at the Human Rights Procurator Office**

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Beatrice Alamanni de Carrillo, the *Procuradora para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos* (PDDH), Human Rights Procurator. She has reportedly received anonymous death threats in her office in the capital, San Salvador. The threats may be linked to her criticism of the police following a recent prison riot. Members of the PDDH have also reported harassment and intimidation from members of the *Policia Nacional Civil* (PNC) National Civil Police.

Beatrice Alamanni de Carrillo has been receiving several threatening faxes, since about 16 December, reportedly stating *muerte a la Procuradora*, "death to the Procuradora". The threats followed alleged attempts by Beatrice Alamanni de Carrillo and other members of the Procurator's office to mediate in a prison riot between police, members of the penitentiary centre and a group of inmates at the *Penitenciaría Central La Esperanza*. The riot allegedly took place when members of the PNC and the *Dirección General de Centros Penitenciarios* were conducting an inspection ("requisa") to confiscate arms and other items from the inmates. During the riot, two police officers from the PNC and an inmate were killed and twenty people were injured.

Mauricio Sandoval, Director of the PNC, and Belisario Artiga, the Attorney General, have accused Beatrice Alamanni de Carrillo of obstructing the police and therefore held her responsible for the death of the two police officers. She has denied these allegations and has openly criticized the role of the PNC during the operation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The PDDH is considered a cornerstone of the Peace Accords by the general public and crucial for the development of Salvadorean society but has not had the same support from the authorities. Under the leadership of the first two Human Rights Procurators, the PDDH increasingly fulfilled the mission entrusted to it and grew in stature and credibility to the point where it was seen by the general public as the institution that most deserved respect and trust. The seriousness and quality of its work was also recognized at an international level. This was followed by a period of instability that caused great damage to the institution. Beatrice Alamanni de Carrillo was appointed as Procurator in July 2001 by the Legislative Assembly after repeated and lengthy delays.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing concern about the threats to the *Procuradora para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos*, Beatrice Alamanni de Carrillo;
- calling on the authorities to take immediate steps to guarantee her safety;
- calling for assurances that members of staff at the Procurator's office will be protected from threats and harassment;
- urging immediate, full and impartial investigations into the threats against her and staff members at the PDDH and for the results of the investigation to be made public;
- expressing regret at the death of the two policemen and an inmate during the riot;

- calling on the authorities to carry out a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into the events in *Penitenciaría Central La Esperanza* on 16 December 2002 that resulted in the death of two police officers and a prisoner.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Governance

Ing. Conrado López Andreu
Ministerio de Gobernación
Centro de Gobierno
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: **Ministro de Gobernación, San Salvador, El Salvador**
Fax: **(503) 281 5959**
Salutation: **Sr. Ministro de Gobernación/ Dear Minister of Governance**

Attorney General

Sr. Belisario Amadeo Artiga
Fiscalía General de la República
Final 13 Calle Poniente
Centro de Gobierno
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: **Fiscal General, San Salvador, El Salvador**
Fax : **(503) 225 6171**
Salutation: **Sr. Fiscal General/ Dear Attorney General**

Director General of the Nacional Civilian Police

Cuartel Central de la PNC
6ª. Calle Oriente, entre 8 y 10 Avenida Sur
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: **Director General de la Policía Nacional Civil, San Salvador, El Salvador**
Fax: **(503) 245 1554**
Salutation: **Sr. Director General/ Dear Director General**

Director General of Prisons

Sr. Rodolfo Garay Pineda
Av. Masferrer N1 612-b
Colonia Lomas Verde
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: **Director General de Prisiones, San Salvador, El Salvador**
Fax: **(503) 221 3966**

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Procurator

Dra. Beatrice Alamanni de Carrillo
Procuraduría para la Defensa
de los Derechos Humanos
90 Av. Norte y 51 Calle Poniente
Edificio AMSA N1 535
San Salvador, El Salvador

Fax: **(503) 222 0655**

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 31 January 2003.