

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 29/05/96

22 April 1996

Further information on UA 06/96 (AMR 29/01/96, 10 January 1996) and follow-ups (AMR 29/02/96, 29 January; AMR 29/03/96, 1 February; AMR 29/04/96, 14 March)
- Death threats / Fear for safety

EL SALVADOR Adrián Esquino Lisco and his family

Maximiliano Bran García

Antonio Armando Pérez Arias

Rafael Arturo Pérez Arias

new names: Relatives of Margarito Esquino
 Relatives of María Coralia Santos Méndez (f)

Death threats against Adrián Esquino Lisco, spiritual chief of the Nahuat, Mayan and Lenca indigenous community of El Salvador, and other members of ANIS (Salvadorean National Indigenous Association), have continued unabated.

Adrián Esquino Lisco has been reportedly threatened with death, every evening during the past week, by several men with painted faces and armed with M-16 rifles.

Adrián Esquino's male relatives are in hiding in fear for their lives. His female relatives have remained in the Comarca San Ramón, a village where Adrián Esquino usually resides. Amnesty International fears for their physical safety.

Relatives of Margarito Esquino (son of Adrián Esquino) and of his wife, María Coralia Santos Méndez (both presently seeking asylum in the USA) have also been threatened with death: on 17 April, 13 armed men with painted faces, gave Margarito Esquino's and María Santos' relatives 72 hours to leave El Salvador. The aggressors were looking for Margarito Esquino and his wife.

Antonio Armando Pérez Arias and Rafael Arturo Pérez Arias, who were detained by members of the *Policía Nacional Civil, PNC*, National Civil Police, on 12 March 1996, are reported to have been released on 19 March, allegedly without charge. Both men were reportedly ill-treated while in detention. As far as Amnesty International is aware, no one has been charged in connection with their arbitrary arrest and ill-treatment.

Amnesty International urges the Government of El Salvador to afford the necessary protection to Adrián Esquino Lisco and his family, as well as to other members of ANIS who have continued to suffer death threats and harassment in the context of land disputes in the department of Sonsonate, El Salvador.

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

- expressing deep concern about the continuing death threats against Adrián Esquino Lisco, his relatives and other members of ANIS;
- calling for immediate measures to guarantee the safety of all members of ANIS, including the residents of the Comarca San Ramón; asking what measures were taken by the authorities in response to earlier appeals;
- calling for steps to be taken immediately to identify those responsible for the death threats;
- urging that an investigation be opened into the reported ill-treatment against Antonio Pérez Arias and Rafael Pérez Arias;
- calling for all those responsible for these crimes to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

President of El Salvador

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

Telegrams: Presidente Calderón, San Salvador, El Salvador

Telexes: 20245 RS SAL; 20522 PRESS SAL

Faxes: +503 271-0950

Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Mario Acosta Oertel
Ministro del Interior
Ministerio del Interior
Centro de Gobierno
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Ministro Interior, San Salvador, El Salvador

Faxes: +503 271-2484

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Attorney General's Office for Human Rights

Dra. Victoria Marina Velásquez de Avilés
Procuradora para la defensa
de los derechos humanos de El Salvador
9a. Avenida Nte. y Calle Poniente
Edificio Amsa No. 535, San Salvador
El Salvador

Salvadorean National Indigenous Association (ANIS)

Sres.
ANIS
Calle Obispo Marroquín,
Oficina Antigua Aduana Férrea 5-1
Sonsonate, El Salvador

Newspapers

Sr. Jefe de redacción
La Prensa Gráfica
3a. Calle Poniente No. 130
San Salvador, El Salvador

Sr. Jefe de redacción
Diario Latino
23 Av. Sur No. 225
Apartado Postal 96,
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 6 June 1996.