

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on EXTRA 13/94 (AMR 29/03/94, 28 February 1994) - Fear for safety

EL SALVADOR Nidia Díaz, (f), opposition politician
 Elmer Cruz Pineda, her bodyguard
 (name previously given as Elmer Cruz Zepeda)

There has been another apparent attempt on the life of Nidia Díaz. On 19 May 1994 armed men attacked her vehicle opposite her house in the *Urbanización Universitaria*, a neighbourhood in the capital San Salvador. She was in her house at the time of the attack, but her bodyguard, Elmer Cruz Pineda, was injured in the forearm. In view of this attack and a similar one in February (see original EXTRA), Amnesty International continues to fear for the safety of Nidia Díaz and Elmer Cruz Pineda.

According to reports, a group of armed men in civilian clothes got out of a vehicle and opened fire on Nidia Díaz's vehicle. Elmer Cruz Pineda returned fire, but was injured in the forearm when the assailants threw an anti-riot flare (*bomba de luz y sonido*) as they fled.

The identity of the attackers is not yet clear, but Amnesty International fears that the attack may be a continuation of an intimidation campaign by elements linked to the military and civilian authorities, aimed at activists and supporters of the *Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN)*, Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, now a legal political party. Amnesty International understands that an investigation has been initiated by the police and the Attorney General's office into this latest incident, but the organization is unaware of any progress regarding the investigation into February's attack.

Nidia Díaz is a member of the *Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores Centroamericanos (PRTC)*, Revolutionary Party of Central American Worker, a faction of the FMLN. Nidia Díaz was recently elected as a deputy to the Legislative Assembly and as President of the Justice and Human Rights Commission of the Legislative Assembly.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the first presidential elections held in El Salvador in April 1994 after 12 years of civil war, the candidate of the *Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (ARENA)*, Nationalist Republican Alliance, Dr. Armando Calderón Sol was elected president. He will take office on 1 June. The elections established the FMLN as the largest opposition force in the country.

The former armed opposition group FMLN became a political party under the terms of the 1992 Peace Accords which ended 12 years of bitter armed conflict. The Accords included numerous human rights commitments and reforms; many of the most important, including an enquiry into "death squads" and key judicial reforms, have yet to be fully implemented.

Since the electoral campaign began in late 1993, many FMLN activists have been targets of apparently political killings, death threats and attacks. Most cases

have not been properly investigated, but the pattern of incidents suggests they are the work of forces linked to the government or ruling party. A governmental commission known as the *Grupo Conjunto* (Joint Group) will report in May 1994 on apparently political killings by "illegal armed groups" since 1992.

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

- expressing concern at the second apparent attempt on the life of opposition politician Nidia Díaz, when her vehicle was attacked on 19 May 1994, injuring her bodyguard Elmer Cruz Pineda;
- pointing out that this attack has occurred in the context of a series of killings, threats and attacks against members and supporters of the FMLN;
- requesting that the investigation be carried out thoroughly and independently and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- asking for measures to guarantee the safety of Nidia Díaz and Elmer Cruz Pineda, and of all FMLN members;
- asking what steps the government intends to take to comply with human rights commitments made in the Peace Accords which are still outstanding.

APPEALS TO:

1. President of the Republic

S.E. Alfredo Cristiani Burkard
 Presidente de la República de El Salvador
 Casa Presidencial
 San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Presidente Cristiani, San Salvador. El Salvador

Faxes + 503 810018/710950

Telexes: 30344 RS SAL

Salutation: Su Excelencia/ Your Excellency

(AFTER 1 JUNE please address your appeals to S.E. Armando Calderón Sol)

2. Minister for Foreign Affairs

Dr. Miguel Angel Salaverria
 Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
 Boulevard Manuel Enrique Araujo Km.6
 San Salvador, El Salvador

Telexes: 20179 RREE SAL

Telegrams: Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, San Salvador, El Salvador

Faxes: + 503 98-0334 / 98-0314

Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

PLEASE NOTE AFTER 1 JUNE a new Minister of Foreign Affairs will be appointed (updated information will be issued)

3. National Counsel for the Defence of Human Rights

Dr. Carlos Molina Fonseca
 Procurador para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
 Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
 9ª Avda. Norte y 5ª Calle Pte.
 Edificio AMSA, N° 535
 San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Procurador DDHH, San Salvador, El Salvador

Faxes: + 503 71 2886

Salutation: Señor Procurador / Dear Dr Molina

(This will NOT change after 1 June)

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Secretaría de Derechos Humanos
FMLN
1a. Avenida Norte 1013
Barrio San Miguelito
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 30 June 1994.