

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 34/02/92

Distr: UA/SC

UA 07/92 Fear of Extrajudicial Execution

7 January 1992

GUATEMALA Francisco TZIAC, aged 16

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of street child Francisco Tziac. He was abducted and beaten in Guatemala City on 18 December 1991, by two men, one of whom is believed to be a member of the armed forces. Francisco Tziac managed to escape from his captors who threatened to kill him and sought safety with Covenant House (Casa Alianza), an organization which works with street children in Guatemala and has been in the forefront of efforts to investigate recent police abuses against children, including harassment, torture, "disappearance" and killings.

On 18 December 1991, Francisco Tziac was walking in Zone 1 of Guatemala City with two other street children, when he was grabbed by two men driving a small red pick-up without number plates. He was forced into the vehicle and taken to the Puente Olímpico (Olímpico Bridge).

There, he later reported, he was thrown out of the pick-up, kicked and insulted by one of the men, who he stated had an identification tag around his neck, similar to those used by the armed forces. This same man then took a gun out of his holster and said "Aquí te vas a morir..." ("here you are going to die..."), but the second man intervened and said that Francisco Tziac should not be killed. While the two men argued Francisco Tziac took the opportunity to escape and fled to Covenant House.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Over the past two years, Amnesty International has received an escalating number of reports of human rights violations against street children in Guatemala City, including beatings, torture, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions, reportedly carried out by official security force agents, particularly the police, acting sometimes in plain clothes and sometimes in uniform. In other cases, abuses have been carried out by agents of private security firms (see Guatemala: Extrajudicial Executions and Human Rights Violations against Street Children, AMR 34/37/90 of August 1990, which documented many of these cases).

Approximately 62 legal suits against more than 50 national and private police are currently pending with the Guatemalan courts and only in isolated cases have investigations resulted in the prosecution of those responsible. Children who have witnessed or given information concerning abuses directed against other street children have been subjected to reprisals, and those working with street children have also been subjected to harassment and intimidation. Francisco Tziac has been a consistent target by security forces since he witnessed the killing of his friend, Nahamán Carmona who was attacked by four policemen on 4 March 1990 and died as a result. The four policemen were subsequently brought to trial and sentenced to prison terms of between 10 to 15 years. However in July 1991, the sentences were overturned and the policemen remain in prison pending a re-trial. On 29 May 1991, two unidentified men abducted Francisco Tziac in Zone 1 of Guatemala City and took him away in a blue vehicle. He was taken to the Colonia La Florida, and later released after being beaten. Previously, in July 1990, police who beat Francisco Tziac told him "Not just us, but many policeman have your name, and we don't want to see you around here or any place in Zone 1, and if we see you, we'll kill you."

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/telephone calls/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- asking for an investigation into the abduction of Francisco Tziac by two men, one of whom is believed to be a member of the armed forces;
- asking that the result of the investigation be made public and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- asking for immediate and adequate measures to protect his life.

Page 2 of UA 07/92

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President:

S.E. Jorge Serrano Elías **Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente /**  
Presidente de la República de Guatemala **Dear President**  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Telegrams: Presidente Serrano, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 537472; + 502 2 519702**  
**Tel No: + 502 2 21212, + 502 2 22266**

2) Minister of Interior:

Lic. Fernando Hurtado Prem **Señor Ministro /**  
Ministro de Gobernación **Dear Minister**  
Despacho Ministerial  
Oficina No. 8, Primer Nivel  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Telegrams: Ministro Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Telexes: 5085 MINGOB GU**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 518105**  
**Tel No: + 502 2 21212, ext 500; 518105-6**

3) Minister of Defence:

Gral. Jorge Perussina **Señor Ministro /**  
Jefe del Estado Mayor de Defensa Nacional **Dear Minister**  
Ministerio de Defensa  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Telexes: 5361 COMGUA GU**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 537472**  
**Tel No: + 502 2 21212, ext 2226**

4) Attorney General:

Señor Acisclo Valladares **Señor Procurador General /**  
Procurador General de la Nación **Dear Attorney General**  
Procuraduría General de la Nación  
18 Calle 10-36  
Zona 1, Guatemala  
Guatemala  
**Telegrams: Procurador General, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Tel No: + 502 2 64697, + 502 2 313656 or**  
**+ 502 2 518385**

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights Procurator in charge of children:

Lic. Eunice Lima  
Procuradora de Menores  
Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos  
Avenida Simeón Cañas, 10-61  
Zona 2, Guatemala  
Guatemala

Casa Alianza  
Apartado Postal 2704,  
Gautemala, Guatemala

Pro-children Commission of Congress:

Señor Presidente  
Comisión Pro-Niñez  
Congreso de la República  
7ta Avenida y 9a Calle  
Zona 1, Ciudad de Guatemala  
Guatemala

Newspaper:

Diario Prensa Libre  
13 Calle 9-31, 50 Nivel  
Edificio Prensa Libre  
Zona 1  
Guatemala, Guatemala

and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, on your section office, if sending appeals after 18 February 1992.