

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 34/04/96

16 February 1996

Further information on UA 395/94 (AMR 34/43/94, 3 November 1994) and follow-up (AMR 34/06/95, 9 March 1995; AMR 34/14/95, 25 May; AMR 34/22/95, 29 August)  
- Fear for safety

**GUATEMALA** Débora GUZMÁN CHUPÉN (f), trade unionist, aged 24  
Félix GONZÁLEZ, trade union leader, husband of Débora Guzmán Chupén  
Julio COJ, trade union leader

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Amnesty International remains seriously concerned for the safety of Débora Guzmán Chupén, her husband Félix González and Julio Coj, following the latest in a series of death threats against them.

According to reports, on 12 February 1996, the following letter (original in Spanish) was left at the home of Débora Guzmán Chupén by an unknown person:

*"Mrs Débora, remember that soon it is going to be a year since we held you back and do you remember that we told you that we'll kill you if you didn't follow what we said and until now you haven't done what was required from you. You think that we are playing games but we are not, we advise you to tell your husband as well as Julio and those from UNSITRAGUA that they have to put an end to this organization, otherwise you will be with us again. It might be on the same date but this time it will be for ever. Tell your husband that if he really loves you he shouldn't risk your life, because you are too young to die. Beware of us, we'll follow you. We have been with those from UNSITRAGUA and they haven't been able to solve anything at all, what they do is put people to death and if they don't want you to be dead both your husband's trade union and the trade union that you belong to should come to an end. Anonymous"*

Débora Guzmán, a trade unionist at the *L y L Modas* factory, a *maquiladora de ropa* (a clothing factory) in Amatitlán, Department of Guatemala, is married to Félix González, a leading *Lunafil* trade unionist. He and a group of 49 workers have suffered a series of threats and other acts of intimidation, as a result of a protest they began in May 1994 against what they perceived to be the illegal and unjustified closure of the textile factory. Débora Guzmán herself has received several death threats and was abducted in February 1995 when she was told that she would be killed if she failed to convince her husband to relinquish his trade union activities. She was subsequently threatened in May and August (see also "*Maquila workers among trade unionists targeted*" - AMR 34/28/95, November 1995).

Despite an official investigation by the National Police into the kidnapping of Débora Guzmán and the threats against her and her husband, and despite a judicial investigation by the Ministerio Público (Public Ministry), the perpetrators of these incidents have not been brought to justice and the threats against the couple and other trade unionists continue with impunity.

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

- expressing serious concern at the continuing death threats against Débora Guzmán, Félix González, Julio Coj as well as other *maquila* workers at the *Lunafil* factory;
- calling on the authorities to take immediate measures to guarantee their safety and that of their families;

- urging the authorities to instigate full and prompt investigations into the reported abuses and that those responsible be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President of the Republic:

S.E. Álvaro Arzú Irigoyen  
Presidente de la República de Guatemala  
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Presidente Arzú Irigoyen, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: +502 2 537 472 / 515 667**  
**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President**

2) Minister of Interior:

Lic. Rodolfo Mendoza  
Ministro de Gobernación,  
Ministerio de Gobernación  
Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8  
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 537 472**  
**Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**

3) Minister of Labour and Social Welfare:

Sr. Arnolso Ortiz Moscoso  
Ministro de Trabajo y Previsión Social  
Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión Social  
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Ministro de Trabajo y Previsión Social, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: +502 2 513 559 / 532 345**  
**Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Attorney General

Lic. Ramses Cuestas Gómez  
Fiscal General de la Nación  
Ministerio Público, 18 Calle 10-36, Zona 1  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Faxes: +502 2 537 554 / 530 482**

Human Rights Procurator

Lic. Jorge García Laguardia  
Procurador de los Derechos Humanos  
12 Avenida 12-72, Zona 1,  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Trade Union

Unión Sindical de Trabajadores de Guatemala (UNSI TRAGUA)  
11 Calle 8-14, Zona 1  
Oficina 34, Tercer Nivel  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Two main shareholders of Lunafil

Arnoldo Kuestermann (German national)  
10 Calle 7-48

Zona 9  
(or Apartado Postal 1005 A. Asies)  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA)

Julio Raúl Herrera Zevallos  
Ingenión Pantaleón  
Diagonal 6 10-67  
Zona 10, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 April 1996.