

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 34/31/92

Distr: UA/SC

UA 230/92

Possible Extrajudicial Execution

9 July 1992

GUATEMALA

Rodnery RODRÍGUEZ VALDIZÓN, aged 26

Emilio GONZÁLEZ GUERRA, aged 26

Luis MORALES ZAVALA, aged 25

---

Amnesty International is concerned at the killing on 5 July 1992 of agronomy engineer, Rodnery Rodríguez Valdizón, and students Emilio González Guerra and Luis Morales Zavala in circumstances suggesting possible security force involvement.

At about 6.30 am on 5 July 1992, Emilio González Guerra and Luis Morales Zavala, both students at the Economics Faculty of the Universidad de San Carlos (USAC), San Carlos University, drove Rodnery Rodríguez Valdizón, also a member of USAC to the airport where he was due to fly to Petén department in northern Guatemala. According to the information made available to Amnesty International, as they were approaching La Aurora Airport in Zone 13 of Guatemala City, another car intentionally collided with the vehicle they were driving. Several unidentified armed men got out of the other car and shot at them with machine guns. All three were killed outright.

Amnesty International is concerned that the manner in which the killings were carried out, ie in broad day-light, in an area normally under surveillance by the security forces, and the involvement of unidentified men in plain clothes using automatic weapons, suggests that they may have been carried out by members of the security forces or those working with their connivance in the guise of so-called "death squads". Amnesty International's concern is heightened at a time of increased human rights violations against university staff and students

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent months, leaders of human rights and trade union organizations, students and university teachers have been the subject of a renewed wave of threats and intimidation.

On 14 May 1992 Andrés Ramírez Lara, a university lecturer at the Faculty of Economics, and José Arana Paz, a student at the Faculty of Psychology at the USAC, were killed in circumstances suggesting official security force involvement. Andrés Ramírez Lara had previously received anonymous death threats. (see UA 165/92, AMR 34/27/92 of 19 May 1992). On 10 April 1992, one student was killed and seven others wounded when members of the Hunapú (Hunters) security force unit opened fire on a group of students, who were preparing for their traditional Easter celebrations. (see UA 123/92, AMR 34/16/92 of 15 April 1992).

In February 1992, university lecturer Pedro Us Soc and his wife Floridalma Ixtahualán received a series of threats, apparently linked to their association with Manuel Estuardo Peña, a professor of History at the USAC, who was shot "death-squad"-style. (See UA 87/92, AMR 34/12/92, 13 March 1992 and UA 56/92, AMR 34/09/92, 17 February 1992).

President Jorge Serrano Elías came to power in January 1991. During his presidential campaign he had pledged to ensure protection of human rights. However, Amnesty International remains seriously concerned at continuing human rights violations in

Guatemala, including extrajudicial executions, death threats, torture and "disappearances". Even in cases where the identity of the perpetrators is unclear, the choice of victim and the manner in which the abuses have been carried out frequently suggest the involvement of members of the official security forces.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the killing of agronomy engineer Rodney Rodríguez Valdizón and university students Emilio González Guerra and Luis Morales Zavala in circumstances suggesting their possible extrajudicial execution;

Page 2 of UA 230/92

- asking that the killings be immediately and impartially investigated and that those responsible be brought to justice;  
- appealing for guarantees for the safety of university staff and students.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. President of the Republic  
S.E. Jorge Serrano Elías  
Presidente de la República  
de Guatemala  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telephone:** + 502 2 21212;  
+ 502 2 22266  
**Faxes:** + 502 2 537472;  
+ 502 2 519702  
**Telexes:** 5331 CAPRES GU

**Salutation: Sr. Presidente/Dear  
President**

2. Minister of Interior  
Lic. Fernando Hurtado Prem  
Ministro de Gobernación  
Ministerio de Gobernación  
Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telephone:** + 502 2 21212 ext. 500;  
+ 502 2 518105-6 (direct)  
**Faxes:** + 502 2 518105  
**Telexes:** 5085 MINGOB

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear  
Minister**

3. Minister of Defence  
Gral. José García Samayoa  
Ministro de Defensa  
Ministerio de Defensa  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telephone:** + 502 2 21212;  
+ 502 2 2226  
**Telexes:** 5361 COMGUA GU

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear  
Minister**

4. Minister of Education  
Sra. María Luisa Beltranena de Padilla  
Ministra de Educación  
Ministerio de Educación  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Ministro Educacion,  
Beltranena, Guatemala,  
Guatemala**

**Salutation: Señora Ministra/Dear  
Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Attorney General  
Lic. Acisclo Valladares Molina  
Procurador General de la Nación  
Procuraduría General de la Nación  
18 Calle 10-36  
Zona 1, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Human Rights Procurator  
Lic. Ramiro de León Carpio  
Procurador de Derechos Humanos  
Avenida Simeón Cañas 10-60 Zona 2,  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Rector of the University of San Carlos  
Dr. Juan Alfonso Fuentes Soria  
Rector  
Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala  
(USAC)  
Ciudad Universitaria  
Zona 12, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

University Students Association of the  
University of San Carlos  
Asociación de Estudiantes  
Universitarios (AEU)  
Ciudad Universitaria  
Zona 12, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY:** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 August 1992.