

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear for Safety / Harassment

19 July 1994

**GUATEMALA**      Rosalina TUYUC VELÁSQUEZ (f), a leader of *Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala* (CONAVIGUA), National Coordinating Committee of Widows of Guatemala

and her family:    Teodora VELÁSQUEZ (Mother)  
                      María Cliofas TUYUC VELÁSQUEZ (Sister)  
                      Carlos Francisco TUYUC (Son)  
                      Julia Ixmucane TUYUC (Daughter)

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The family of Rosalina Tuyuc Velásquez, who live in the town of San Juan Comalapa, Chimaltenango department, have reported several recent incidents of intimidation against them carried out by members of the armed forces. These incidents, which they consider amount to a campaign of harassment, are believed to be related to Rosalina Tuyuc's high-profile leadership of CONAVIGUA. Amnesty International fears for their safety and the safety of Rosalina Tuyuc.

Incidents reported to Amnesty International include:

- 30 June - a group of uniformed soldiers come to the family home in San Juan Comalapa and stay for ten minutes, before leaving;
- 1 and 2 July - the same group of uniformed soldiers stop in front of the family home, before continuing on;
- 3 July - María Cliofas Tuyuc, the sister of Rosalina, is pointed at by a group of soldiers as she is shopping at the municipal market;
- 4 July - two uniformed members of the armed forces follow María Cliofas Tuyuc from the corner of her street as she is returning home and stand outside watching her after she enters her home. The soldiers are heard to say that they are looking for someone.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Popular grassroots organizations, including human rights groups like CONAVIGUA have been long-term targets of human rights abuses in Guatemala. On 22 April 1994, two members of the largely indigenous *Comité de Unidad Campesina (CUC)*, Committee of Peasant Unity, were arrested in Huehuetenango, accused of killing a member of the *Patrullas de Autodefensa Civil (PAC)*, Civil Defence Patrols, civilian agents of the armed forces. Both men were subsequently released without charge. At the time of the killing, the army publicly declared, without presenting any supporting evidence that it was the work of leaders of popular organizations such as CONAVIGUA and CUC. (See UA 173/94, AMR 34/25/94, 3 May 1994, and AMR 34/29/94, 7 June)

A human rights accord was signed on 29 March 1994 in Mexico City by representatives of the Guatemalan Government and the armed opposition coalition, the *Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG)*, Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity. On 23 June an agreement was reached between the two parties on the formation of a *Commission for the Clarification of Violations of Human Rights and Acts of Violence which Caused Suffering to the Guatemalan People during the Armed Conflict*. The Commission, which is apparently to have three members, will have no legal authority to punish those responsible for human rights violations, will not name specific individuals involved in the perpetration of human rights violations and its findings will not be considered valid as evidence in a court of law. In Amnesty International's

view the results of the commission's findings should be referred to the appropriate judicial bodies and those found responsible for human rights violations and abuses brought to justice, as one of the means of preventing further such abuses.

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

- expressing concern at the incidents of intimidation and harassment against the family of Rosalina Tuyuc;
- asking for an investigation into these incidents and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- asking for guarantees for the safety of Rosalina Tuyuc and her family.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President of the Republic:

S.E. Ramiro de León Carpio  
 Presidente de la República de Guatemala  
 Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Presidente de León Carpio, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 347364 / 527 472**  
**Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU**  
**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente /Dear President**

2) Minister of Interior:

Lic. Danilo Parrinello Blanco  
 Ministro de Gobernación  
 Ministerio de Gobernación  
 Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8  
 Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 515 368 / 518 105**  
**Telexes: 5085 MINGOB**  
**Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**

3) Minister of Defence:

Gral. Mario Enríquez Morales  
 Ministro de Defensa  
 Ministerio de Defensa  
 Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 21906/515252**  
**Telexes: 5361 COMGUA GU**  
**Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Human Rights Procurator

Lic. Jorge García Laguardia  
 Procurador de los Derechos Humanos  
 12 Avenida 12-72, Zona 1  
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Faxes: +502 2 81734**

Head of the Presidential Commission Coordinating the Policies of the Executive relating to Human Rights

Lic. Jorge Gonzalo Cabrera Hurtarte  
Presidente  
COPREDEH  
15 Avenida 18-38, Zona 13  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Archbishop's Human Rights Office  
Oficina de Derechos Humanos del  
Arzobispado de Guatemala (ODHAG)  
Apartado Postal 723  
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 30 August 1994.