

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: AMR 34/36/92
Distr: UA/SC**

30 July 1992

Further information on UA 243/92 (AMR 34/35/92, 28 July 1992) - Fear of "Disappearance"/Harassment

**GUATEMALA: Maritza URRUTIA RUIZ, female, teacher
and other members of her family**

Maritza Urrutia Ruiz was abducted by three armed unidentified men in Guatemala City on 23 July 1992 in circumstances strongly suggesting the involvement of the security forces. She was forced into a white car with polarized windows and driven away. From her detention place she telephoned her family several times, stating that she was about to go "on a long trip".

On 29 July 1992, several unidentified men went to TV Channel 13 and delivered a video cassette. The video was aired later that day. It showed Maritza Urrutia apparently in a drugged and traumatized state, admitting to belonging to "subversive organizations". She then went on to name several others whom she said were also working with the armed opposition, including her brother Edmundo Urrutia Ruiz and some five or six others. So far, Amnesty International has been unable to obtain a list of names, but is seriously concerned for the safety of those named because over the years many of those accused by the Guatemalan authorities as being "guerrillas" have not been arrested and brought to justice according to Guatemalan law. Instead, they have been abducted by the security forces or by armed civilians ostensibly under their command in the guise of "death squads", subjected to torture and "disappeared". Others have been extrajudicially executed.

After the video was aired, Maritza Urrutia reportedly telephoned her family and said she would be released. Since her abduction, her family home has been under surveillance, and unidentified vehicles with polarized windows have been seen around the house, which strongly suggests the involvement of the security forces.

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

- urging the authorities to make Maritza Urrutia's whereabouts known, and that she either be charged with a recognizable criminal offence or immediately released;
- expressing concern about her physical and mental condition as shown in the video and asking for guarantees for her physical safety;
- asking for a thorough investigation into her abduction, that the results of the investigation be made public and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- seeking guarantees for the safety of her family;
- seeking assurances for the physical safety of her brother Edmundo Urrutia Ruiz and the others named by Maritza Urrutia in her video statement.

APPEALS TO:

1. Vice-President of the Republic (Acting President while President is on

an official visit abroad)

Sr. Gustavo Espina
Vicepresidente de la República de Guatemala
Palacio Nacional
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Presidente Serrano, Guatemala, Guatemala

Telephone: + 502 2 21212, + 502 2 22266

Faxes: + 502 2 537472, + 502 2 519702

Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President

page 2 of FU UA 243/92...

2. Minister of Interior:

Señor Ministro de Gobernación
Ministerio de Gobernación
Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8
Palacio Nacional
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, 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

Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Guatemala, Guatemala

Telephone: + 502 2 21212 ext 743, 744; + 502 2 21904

Telexes: 5361 COMGUA GU

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

4. Head of the National Police

Lic. José María Meléndez
Director General de la Policía Nacional
6 Avenida 13-71
Zona 1, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Director General Policia Nacional, Guatemala, Guatemala

Faxes: + 502 2 27521

Salutation: Sr. Director General / Dear Director General

5. Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces

Gral. Jorge Perussina
Jefe del Estado Mayor de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa Nacional
Av. la Reforma 2-43, Zona 10
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telephone: + 502 2 365750; + 502 2 365753

Salutation: Sr. General / Dear General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human Rights Procurator:

GUATEMALA

Lic. Ramiro de León Carpio
Procurador de los Derechos Humanos
Avenida Simeón Cañas 10-60 Zona 2,
Guatemala

President of the Human Rights
Commission of Congress:
Lic. Oliverio García Rodas

Presidente
Comisión de Derechos Humanos
Congreso Nacional de la República
9 Av. 9-48, Zona 1
Guatemala
GUATEMALA

President of the Coordinating
Committee of the Executive
for Human Rights:
Bernardo Neuman
Comisión Presidencial Coordinadora
de la Política del Ejecutivo en
materia de Derachos Humanos
(COPREDEH)
15 Avenida 18-38, Zona 13
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 accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 September 1992.