

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 37/04/97

15 August 1997

Further information on UA 274/97 (AMR 37/03/97, 14 August 1997) - Apparent extrajudicial executions / Fear for safety

HONDURAS Adán Romero) members
Pedro Ramos) of
Amadeo Pérez) Tolupan
José Romero) indigenous
Wisla Pérez (f)) group

Other members of indigenous community

New name: Salvador Zúñiga, indigenous leader and activist
A group of indigenous protestors

Amnesty International is concerned by reports of a plan to kill Salvador Zúñiga, President of *Comité de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Intibucá*, (COPIN), Committee of Indigenous and Popular Organizations of Intibucá, in an apparent attempt to stop his work on behalf of the indigenous community.

Salvador Zúñiga has been outspoken on issues concerning indigenous rights. In particular he has spoken out and given press statements regarding the lack of progress made on the implementation of an agreement between *chortís*, an indigenous group, and the government on 14 May 1997. The agreement calls for, among other things, an investigation into the killings of two Chortí leaders in April 1997 (see original UA) which, indigenous groups report, has not been carried out.

There is also concern for a group of 16 indigenous people (though this number is growing) who have been on hunger strike in the National Congress Building since 30 July. They are protesting at the government's failure to comply with relevant international and national agreements, including the 14 May agreement. They have already been visited, on 14 August, by seven armed men (reportedly members of the security forces) dressed in civilian clothes, two of whom they managed to disarm causing the other five to flee. It is reported that they will be forcibly removed on 16 August.

Fears for the safety of indigenous peoples are also heightened by reports that landowners and cattlemen are arming themselves with AK47 machine guns and other high calibre weapons and strengthening their ties with the military.

A member of the *Confederación de Pueblos Autóctonos de Honduras* (CONPAH), the Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Honduras welcomed the issuing of the original Urgent Action, issued on 14 August.

Please continue action as specified in original UA. In further appeals express concern for the safety of Salvador Zúñiga and the indigenous group of protestors.

Please also send appeals to:

1) Attorney General
Lic. Edmundo Orellana Mercado
Fiscal General, Fiscalía General de la República

Ministerio Público
Edificio Castillo Poujol
4° Avd, Colonia Palmira, Boulevard Morazán
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Telegrams: Fiscal General, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Faxes: +504 39 47 50
Salutation: Sr. Fiscal General/Attorney General

Copies to:

1) Daily Newspaper

Diario La Tribuna
Sr. Director
Apartado 1501
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 October 1997.