

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear for safety

6 July 1995

HONDURAS Staff of Casa Alianza, NGO working with street children

Amnesty International fears for the safety of staff at Casa Alianza Honduras, a non-governmental organization in Tegucigalpa working with street children, after receiving reports that they have been subjected to bomb threats and intimidation.

During the morning of 5 July 1995, members of staff reportedly received at least nine threatening phone calls from an unidentified man, who warned them that he would plant a bomb in their offices on 6 July if they "did not get rid of the criminals they had there" ("*...si no sacan este montón de delincuentes de allí, el viernes voy a poner una bomba*"). The man alleged that a boy who had stolen his watch had been given refuge in the offices of Casa Alianza. The staff who answered the telephone calls repeatedly invited the caller to visit their offices to identify the boy so that they could investigate the allegations, but the man only repeated the threats.

At noon on 5 July, a member of the Casa Alianza staff reportedly saw three men, two of whom were holding machine guns, driving in a car without number plates around the area near their offices. The two armed men, dressed in civilian clothes, got out of the car near the offices of Casa Alianza, walked around the corner and then got back in the car again. Other human rights workers in Honduras have previously been the targets of similar forms of surveillance, which Amnesty International believes may be linked to the security forces.

The threats have been reported to the Public Ministry and the Commissioner for Human Rights.

The threats have come at a time when Casa Alianza (Covenant House) has been campaigning at a national and international level on the issue of children detained with adults in Honduran prisons.

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

- expressing concern at the threats and intimidation against the staff of Casa Alianza on 5 July 1995;
- calling for immediate measures to be taken to guarantee the safety of all Casa Alianza staff;
- calling on the authorities to make clear their condemnation of these threats and urging a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into them and that those found responsible are brought to justice;

APPEALS TO

1) President of the Republic

S.E. Carlos Roberto Reina
Presidente de la República de Honduras
Casa Presidencial
6^a Avenida, 1^a Calle
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Telegrams: Presidente Reina, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Telexes: 1129 MMRR HO/1429 HO

Faxes: +504 37 8521

Salutation: Señor Presidente / Dear President

2) Minister of the Interior and Justice

Sr. Mario Efraín Moncada Silva
Ministro de Gobernación y Justicia
Ministerio de Gobernación y Justicia
Palacio de los Ministerios, 2° Piso
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Telegrams: Ministro Interior y Justicia, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Faxes: +504 37 1121

Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Covenant House

Sres.
Casa Alianza
Apartado 2401
Tegucigalpa, D.C.
Honduras

Daily newspaper

Sr. Director
Diario Tiempo
Altos del Centro Comercial Prisa
Colonia Miramontes
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

and to diplomatic representatives of HONDURAS accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 August 1995.