

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 37/07/97

UA 320/97 Possible extrajudicial execution / Fear for safety 10 October 1997

HONDURAS Edwin Ramírez, aged 3, killed
Benigno Ramírez García, human rights activist, in hiding

There are serious fears for the safety of human rights activist Benigno Ramírez García who is in hiding following an attack in which his three-year-old son, Edwin, was killed.

The attack occurred on 30 September 1997 as Benigno Ramírez García, his wife, and son were in a truck leaving their farm in Dora, near "Camp 45", in Yoro.

Three men carrying AKA 47 and FAL 7.62mm weapons opened fire on the truck which was left with a large number of bullet holes. One bullet went through the boy's head and Benigno Ramírez's right hand. He managed to drive on to Urraco Pueblo where there is a medical clinic, but the child was pronounced dead on arrival.

Benigno Ramírez has worked with human rights and other organizations seeking better living conditions for people in very poor areas in San Pedro Sula and Yoro. He has been attacked and threatened in the past, and his name was reportedly on a death list found some years ago in an army barracks.

The attack of 30 September is believed to be related to Benigno Ramírez's attempts to mediate between two parties involved in a dispute over land which formerly belonged to banana-growing companies. Local sources suspect that the shooting was carried out by, or at the order of, one of the parties to this dispute, who is reportedly an ex-member of Honduran military intelligence with links to the military.

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

- deploring the death of three-year old Edwin Ramírez in the attack on 30 September 1997;
- expressing serious concern for the safety of his father Benigno Ramírez García;
- calling for a prompt and thorough investigation into the attack and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging the government to take immediate measures to guarantee the safety of Benigno Ramírez García and his relatives.

APPEALS TO:

1) President

S.E. Carlos Roberto Reina Idiaquez
Presidente de la República de Honduras
Casa Presidencial
6^a Avenida, 1^a Calle
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Telegrams: Presidente, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Faxes: +504 34 4947
Salutation: Sr. President/Dear President

2) 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

Faxes: +504 39 4750

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Salutation: Sr. Fiscal General/Attorney General

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Commission

Lic. Leo Valladares Lanza

Comisionado Nacional de Protección de los Derechos Humanos

Avda. Los Próceres 3623

Tegucigalpa MDC., Honduras

Faxes: +504 367213

Daily Newspaer

Diario La Tribuna

Sr. Director

Apartado 1501

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 25 November 1997.