

UA 154/99

Fear for**HONDURAS Dora Emperatriz Oliva Guifarro, aged 33, human rights defender**

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Dora Emperatriz Oliva Guifarro, who was abducted and detained for two hours by two men, reportedly paramilitaries, who threatened to kill her. Amnesty International fears for the safety of all the Oliva family, as they have been threatened many times.

Dora Oliva works for the *Comite de Familiares de Detenidos-Desaparecidos en Honduras* (COFADEH), the Committee of Relatives of the "Disappeared" in Honduras. On 5 July 1999, at 11.30am, she was outside the Swedish Embassy in the capital, Tegucigalpa, waiting to meet her sister Bertha Oliva de Nativi, the General Coordinator of COFADEH.

Two well-dressed young men approached her and forced her into her car at gunpoint, telling her not to show any signs of fear that would alert passers by. As they drove eastwards across the city the two men outlined the details of Dora's daily routine, adding that they knew that she worked for a human rights group. They then went on to underline the fact that they had been following her for the past five days.

One of the men then warned her not to tell the police, as they had informants within their ranks. He warned her, '*Si lo denuncias la van a pagar los cipotes que pasan por los bomberos.*' [If you report us, the kids who walk past the fire station every day will pay], a clear reference to her children.

The other man then suggested they kill her. However, they left her in a deserted area of town, taking her money and jewelry, a number of personal items and all her documents, including her driving licence and ID card, which they said would help them to identify her in the future.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

COFADEH has been active in the defence of human rights in Honduras for many years, and has often come into conflict with the authorities when it has protested against human rights violations allegedly committed by the state security forces. COFADEH members have been the target of a long campaign of harassment, attacks and attempts to discredit them, because of their work on behalf of victims of human rights violations and against impunity.

Amnesty International has been documenting threats against the Oliva family for a long time. Bertha Oliva, whose husband Tomás Nativí Gálvez "disappeared" in June 1981, has been the target of a long and sustained campaign against her and her work as a defender of human rights. Last year defamatory articles appeared in the Honduran press which attempted to discredit her work and that of COFADEH.

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

- expressing serious concern for the safety of Dora Emperatriz Oliva Guifarro and her family after they were threatened;
- calling for a prompt and thorough investigation into the abduction and threats and for those responsible to be brought to justice;

- urging the government to take immediate measures to guarantee the safety of Dora Emperatriz Oliva Guifarro and her family and asking to be kept informed of developments;
- reminding the government of the Organization of American States (OAS) resolution of 7 June 1999, especially article 3: "to deplore acts that directly or indirectly prevent or hamper the work of Human Rights Defenders, at the national and/or regional level, and to urge member states to continue taking the necessary steps to guarantee their life, liberty, and integrity."

APPEALS TO:1) President

S.E. Carlos Roberto Reina Idiaquez
 Presidente de la República de Honduras
 Casa Presidencial
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 Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Fax: + 504 235 6949
E-mail: law_bureau@hotmail.com
Telegrams: Presidente, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Salutation: Sr. President/Dear President

2) Attorney General

Dr. Roy Edmundo Medina
 Fiscal General de la República
 Fiscalía General, Edificio Poujol
 Contiguo a la Casa de la Enfermera
 Boulevard Morazán atrás de Banpro
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Fax: + 504 239 4750
Telegrams: Fiscal General, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Salutation: Sr. Fiscal General/Attorney General

3) National Commission for the Protection of *Human Rights*

Lic. Leo Valladares Lanza
 Comisionado Nacional de Protección
 de los Derechos Humanos
 Avda. La Paz No. 2444
 Contiguo a Galerías La Paz
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Fax: + 504 236 7213/221 0536
E-mail: conadeh5@hondutel.hn / info@conadeh.hn
Salutation: Sr. Comisionado/ Dear Commissioner

COPIES TO:1) Human rights organization

Comité de Familiares de Detenidos-Desaparecidos
 en Honduras (COFADEH)
 Apartado Postal 1243
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Tel/Fax: + 504 220 5280 + 504 379800

2) Daily Newspaper

Diario La Tribuna
 Sr. Director
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Tegucigalpa, Honduras
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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 18 August 1999.