

URGENT ACTION

FAMILY OF MURDERED MOTHER AT RISK

Margarita Chub Che, a human rights defender and community leader, was killed on 4 June in the municipality of San José Panorama, Panzos, north-eastern Guatemala. Her family is believed to be at risk of further attacks because of their demands for justice.

On 4 June, at approximately 23:30, **Margarita Chub Che** was near her house in San José Panorama when she was shot at with a firearm by three unknown individuals. She died immediately after the attack. According to information received by Amnesty International, the killing might be a domestic violence incident.

Following her death, relatives of Margarita Chub Che, including one of her three children, have been demanding justice and a thorough investigation into the killing. Due to the high levels of violence against women in the Alta Verapaz department, the safety of the Chub Che family is at risk.

According to official statistics 695 women were killed in 2010. The total number of women killed in the period from 2004 to 2010 is at least 4,400. Impunity prevails, with less than 4% of all homicide cases resulting in perpetrators being convicted. The state of Guatemala has an obligation to protect the right to life of all women and investigate all cases of gender violence.

Margarita Chub Che was a 37 year old indigenous woman human rights defender and community leader in the Panzos province, in north-eastern Guatemala.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language

- Urge the authorities to take immediate steps to provide appropriate protection, according to their wishes, to members of the Chub Che family who are at risk;
- Call for an independent, thorough and impartial investigation by the Prosecutor's office into the killing of Margarita Chub Che, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- Urge the authorities to transfer the case to the special Public Prosecutor's Unit for Women (Fiscalía de la Mujer).

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 JULY 2011 TO:

Attorney General

Claudia Paz y Paz Bailey
Fiscal General de la República
Ministerio Público
15ª Avenida 15-16, Zona 1, Barrio
Gerona
Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Fax: +502 2411 9124
Salutation: **Dear Attorney General /
Estimada Sra. Fiscal General**

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Carlos Menocal
Ministro de Gobernación
6ª Avenida 13-71, Zona 1,
Ciudad de Guatemala,
GUATEMALA
Fax: +502 2413 8658
Salutation: **Dear Minister/Estimado
Sr.Ministro**

And copies to:

UDEFEGUA
UDEFEGUA – Unidad de protección a
defensores y defensoras de derechos
humanos
1 Calle 7-45 zona 1, Oficina 2-b,
Ciudad de Guatemala
Guatemala
E-mail: udefegua@yahoo.com

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Margarita Chub Che was a member of a grassroots forum which promotes the rights of indigenous Q'eqchi communities evicted from disputed lands in the Valle del Polochic in March (See UA 83/11 AMR 34/004/2011). She advocated for a settlement of the dispute. Additionally, she had been active in demanding justice and truth for past violations of human rights that occurred in the internal armed conflict in the area of Panzos.

Amnesty International has been campaigning on violence against women and girls in Guatemala, in particular on the issue of killings of women, since 2004. For more information, please see the report "Guatemala: No protection, no Justice: killings of women" <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR34/017/2005/en> and an update to the report <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR34/019/2006/en>

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