

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 34/002/2001

24 January 2001

Further information on UA 128/00 (AMR 34/15/00, 22 May 2000) and follow-up (AMR 34/49/00, 8 December 2000) - Fear for safety

GUATEMALAAna María Pichol (f), aged 12
Nicolás Pichol Cael and his family
Rosa Tuis Guarcax (f)
New name:Cecilia Guarcax (f)

The ex-military commissioner accused of raping 12-year-old Ana María Pichol will go on trial on 26 January. The former commissioner will face charges of child sexual abuse and rape (*estupro y violación*) in the Santa Lucía Cotzulmalguapa Court, in Escuintla department.

The girl's family are reportedly still receiving death threats from relatives and friends of the accused.

Her father, Nicolás Pichol Cael, who reported the rape on 12 December 1999, is a member of the *Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala* (CONAVIGUA), the National Coordinator of Guatemala's Widows, which campaigns for the investigation of massacres carried out by the security forces since the 1960s and compensation for the victims' families.

Two CONAVIGUA members, Rosa Tuis Guarcax and Cecilia Guarcax, are still receiving death threats, which began when they took up the case.

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

- asking the authorities to guarantee the safety of Ana María Pichol Guarcax, her relatives, members of CONAVIGUA and others involved in the proceedings against the ex-military commissioner for child sexual abuse and rape;
- expressing concern that relatives and those supporting them have been intimidated and threatened because they have tried to bring the man who raped a 12-year-old girl to justice;
- reminding the authorities that under the Guatemalan constitution and international human rights protection standards, people facing such charges must be given a full and impartial trial, regardless of any official position they may hold.

APPEALS TO: (Please note that it can be difficult getting through to some of these fax numbers. Please be patient and keep trying)

Minister of the Interior

Sr. Byron Barrientos

Ministro de Gobernación

Ministerio de Gobernación

6^a Avenida 4-64, Zona 4

Ciudad de Guatemala , GUATEMALA

Telegram:Ministro Gobernacion, Guatemala, Guatemala

Fax:+ 502 362 0239/ 362 0237

Salutation: Dear Minister / Estimado Señor Ministro

Attorney General

Lic. Adolfo González Rodas

Fiscal General de la República

Ministerio Público
8a. Avenida 10-67
Zona 1, Tercer nivel
Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Telegram:Fiscal General, Guatemala, Guatemala
Fax:+ 502 221 2718
Salutation: Dear Attorney General / Estimado Señor Fiscal General

Public Prosecutor's Office
Lic. Rodolfo Gonzalo Hernández/ Lic. Jose Augusto Martinez Monzon
Fiscal Distrital de Escuintla
Ministerio Público
4ª Avenida 2-39, Zona 1
Escuintla, Escuintla, GUATEMALA
Telegram:Fiscal Distrital, Escuintla, Guatemala
Fax: + 502 889 4099/ + 502 888 0437 (If a voice answers, say 'fax por favor')
Salutation: Dear District Attorney / Estimado Señor Fiscal Distrital

COPIES TO:

CONAVIGUA
Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas
de Guatemala (CONAVIGUA)
8a. Avenida 2-29, Zona 1,
Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Fax: + 502 253 7914/ 232 5642 (If a voice answers, say 'fax por favor')
E-mail: conavigua@intelnet.net.gt
Salutation:Dear Friends / Estimados Amigas

Newspaper
Diario "Prensa Libre"
13 Calle 9-31, Zona 1,
Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Fax: + 502 251 8768
E-mail: webmaster@prensalibre.com.gt

Magazine dealing with women's issues
Laura E. Asturias
Revista La Cuerda
Apartado postal 18
Puerta Parada 01973
12 Calle, 2-18, Local B, Zona 1,
Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Fax: + 502 253 6026 / + 502 253 6027 (If a voice answers, say 'fax por favor')
E-mail: leasturias@quetzal.net

and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 March 2001.