

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 34/36/99

29 September 1999

Further information on UA 02/98 (AMR 34/01/98, 6 January 1998) and follow-up (AMR 34/34/99, 3 September 1999) - Fear for safety

GUATEMALA Peasant farmers from the El Sauce community

On 23 September 1999, landowner Luis Alfredo Ponce Cruz was acquitted of the murder of El Sauce Kekchí community member Rosa Chub Pec and has now been released.

As a result of his acquittal, Amnesty International has renewed concerns for the safety of El Sauce community members who testified at the trial. Witnesses and those supporting them have been constantly threatened and intimidated by private security guards employed by Ponce Cruz with the acquiescence and complicity of local authorities.

In January 1997 community members saw scores of heavily armed private security guards and employees of Ponce Cruz, led by him, destroy their homes, crops and community chapel, and allegedly kill Rosa Chub Pec and injure her son.

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

- noting that Luis Alfredo Ponce Cruz has been acquitted (case ref No. 53-99. Of.30, Tribunal de Sentencia Penal, Puerto Barrios, Izabál Department) of the murder of Rosa Pec Chub and released;
- expressing concern for the safety of witnesses, lawyers and others involved in the proceedings against Luis Alfredo Ponce Cruz who have been intimidated and threatened throughout the proceedings;
- asking the authorities to guarantee their safety.

APPEALS TO:

Attorney General

Lic. Carlos García Regás, Procurador General de la Nación,
Procuraduría General de la Nación
15 Avenida 9-69, Zona 13, Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Procurador General, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Faxes: + 502 334 8465 (if someone answers ask: "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Señor Procurador General de la Nación / Dear Attorney General

Minister of Foreign Relations

Lic. Eduardo Stein, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Palacio Nacional, 6ª Calle y 7ª Avenida, Zona 1
Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, Guatemala, Guatemala

Faxes: + 502 232 7832 / + 502 251 8445 / + 502 251 6745

Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Group CALDH - Centre for Legal Action in Human Rights
Daniel Vogt, CALDH (Centro para la Acción Legal en Derechos Humanos)
9ª Av. 2-59, Zona 1
Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Faxes: + 502 251 8163 / + 502 232 3821 / + 502 221 1268 / + 502 221 1286
E-mails: caldhluim@guate.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 10 November 1999.