

19 August 1997

Further information on UA 274/97 (AMR 37/03/97, 14 August 1997) and follow-up (AMR 37/04/97, 15 August) - Apparent extrajudicial executions / Fear for safety

HONDURAS Adán Romero) members
 Pedro Ramos) of
 Amadeo Pérez) Tolupan
 José Romero) indigenous
 Wisla Pérez (f)) group

Other members of indigenous community

Salvador Zúñiga, indigenous leader and activist
 A group of indigenous protestors

New names: Antonio Pérez, *chortí* leader

Berta Cáceres (f))
 Gerardo Yáñez,) active *lenca* leaders
 Victoriano Pérez)
 Adela Noemí Arana (f))
 Ernesto Suchite)
 Antonio Aquino) active *chortí* leaders
 Victor (family name unknown))
 Marco Antonio Gutiérrez)

Threats and attacks against leaders of the indigenous community in Honduras are continuing. Those newly listed above have all been recently attacked and/or threatened.

On 16 August, Antonio Pérez, active member of the *Chortí* indigenous community, was ambushed by three unidentified men as he left home to find a midwife for his wife who was in the final stages of labour. The attackers assaulted Antonio Pérez with machetes and his arm was nearly severed. He is in a critical condition.

Antonio Pérez had just returned to his community, Monte Negro, after spending three weeks in Tegucigalpa, the capital, as part of the indigenous population's demand for the agreement of 14 May 1997 to be implemented (see original UA). He was one of the 16 people on a hunger-strike. Latest reports indicate that the attack was ordered by landowners of the area.

Antonio Aquino, another *Chortí* leader, was recently at home in Ocotepeque when a group of unidentified and heavily armed people fired shots into his house. Since the incident he has fled to Tegucigalpa in fear for his safety.

On 15 August, the hunger-strike was suspended after the government signed another partial agreement promising to return some land to the indigenous community by 19 August 1997. However some 200 indigenous people remain encamped at the National Congress building in Tegucigalpa in the hopes that their presence will encourage the government to comply with this latest agreement.

Please continue to send appeals based on the original UA and previous follow-up. In any other further appeals express concern for the safety of all the people mentioned above, in particular Antonio Pérez and Antonio Aquino.