

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 34/22/95

29 August 1995

Further information on UA 395/94 (AMR 34/43/94, 3 November 1994) and follow-ups (AMR 34/06/95, 9 March 1995, AMR 34/14/95, 25 May) - Fear for safety

**GUATEMALA** Débora GUZMÁN CHUPÉN (f), trade unionist, aged 23, wife of Félix González, trade union leader

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Débora Guzmán Chupén, following the latest in a series of death threats against her.

On 21 August 1995, Débora Guzmán, who is pregnant, left the *M y J Modas* factory to do some shopping. According to reports, she noticed a black car with tinted glass near the factory. A few minutes later a child handed her an anonymous letter he had been given by the occupants of the car. The note said,

"Remember that you have had a long time and that we have left you alone. If you love your baby, convince your husband since neither of you has taken any notice. But if he loves his baby, he will have to decide now: either leave the union or his wife and child will pay the consequences. Remember what we say. Urge him to resign and if he doesn't he will know who we are. If the last time, we didn't do anything, this time everyone will pay, even the baby. Ask your husband what he prefers: to have you alive or dead".

("Acuérdese que lleva mucho tiempo y la hemos dejado estar. Si quiere usted a su bebé exígale a su marido ya que ninguno de los dos hace caso. Pero si él quiere a su bebé tendrá que decidirse ahora: o deja el sindicato o pagarán las consecuencias su mujer y su hijo. Acuérdense lo que le decimos. Exígale que renuncie y si no ya sabrá quienes somos nosotros. Si la vez pasada no se le hizo nada, esta vez pagará todo y hasta su bebé. Dígale a su marido que prefiere: tenerla viva o muerta.")

Débora Guzmán's husband, Félix González, is a leading trade unionist at the *Lunafil S. A.* textile factory in Amatitlán, Department of Guatemala. He and a group of 49 workers have suffered a series of threats and other acts of intimidation as a result of a protest they began in May 1994 against what they perceived to be the illegal and unjustified closure of the textile factory.

Débora Guzmán herself has received several death threats and was abducted in February 1995 when she was told that she would be killed if she failed to convince her husband to relinquish his trade union activities. She was subsequently threatened in May.

An Amnesty International delegation visited Guatemala earlier this year and met with Débora Guzmán, Félix González and the workers at *Lunafil* to obtain first-hand testimonies regarding the harassment they had been suffering. It would appear that, despite the threats against Débora Guzmán and her abduction in February, the authorities have not initiated any inquiries. It is believed that, as occurred in the context of previous labour disputes at *Lunafil* in 1987 and 1988, private security guards hired by the *Lunafil* management and acting with the acquiescence or complicity of the Guatemalan security forces may be responsible for the abuses against Débora Guzmán and other recent violations against unionists in the textile sector.

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

- expressing serious concern at the continuing death threats against Débora Guzmán and Félix González;
- calling on the authorities to take immediate measures to guarantee their safety and that of their family;
- urging the authorities to instigate full and prompt investigations into the reported abuses and that those responsible be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

*AI Sections in a position to promote appeals by prominent people in the clothing or fashion industries are encouraged to do so. Please warn those sympathizers not to make statements about the company which could lead to libel action and to use the UA text only.*

1) President of the Republic:

S.E. Ramiro de León Carpio  
Presidente de la República de Guatemala  
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Presidente de León Carpio, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 537472/515667**  
**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente /Dear President**

2) Minister of Interior:

Lic. Carlos Enrique Reynoso  
Ministro de Gobernación,  
Ministerio de Gobernación  
Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8  
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 518 105; 537 472**  
**Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**

3) Minister of Labour and Social Welfare:

Sra. Gladys Morfin  
Ministro de Trabajo y Previsión Social  
Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión Social  
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Ministra de Trabajo y Previsión Social Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 513 559; 532 345**  
**Salutation: Sra. Ministro / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Fiscal General

Lic. Ramses Cuestas Gómez  
Fiscal General de la Nación  
Ministerio Público  
18 Calle 10-36, Zona 1  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Faxes: + 502 2 537554; + 502 2 530482**

Human Rights Procurator

Lic. Jorge García Laguardia  
Procurador de los Derechos Humanos  
12 Avenida 12-72  
Zona 1, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Trade union

Unión Sindical de Trabajadores de Guatemala (UNSI TRAGUA)  
11 Calle 8-14, Zona 1  
Oficina 34, Tercer Nivel  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Director, Lunafil

Carlos Enrique Zibara Moll  
Oficinas de Fábrica Lunafil  
13 Calle 8-91  
Zona 11  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Two main shareholders of Lunafil

Arnoldo Kuestermann (German national)  
10 Calle 7-48  
Zona 9  
(or Apartado Postal 1005 A. Asies)  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Julio Raul Herrera Zevallos  
Ingenión Pantaleón  
Diagonal 6 10-67  
Zona 10  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

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 22 October 1995.