

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information (1) on UA 155/95 (AMR 29/02/95, 3 July 1995) - Death threats

EL SALVADOR Dr. Francisco Carrillo (note correct spelling), director of
FUNDASIDA and other members of FUNDASIDA, a non-governmental
AIDS organization

new names: Wilfredo Valencia Palacios, president of *Entre Amigos*, and other
members of this group

Amnesty International has learned that the gay men's group *Entre Amigos* (Among Friends) received three death threats by telephone on 6 July 1995 from the anti-homosexual death squad *La Sombra Negra* (The Black Shadow), saying that they were going to come to their next meeting and kill everyone.

These threats come only days after the offices of FUNDASIDA were raided by unidentified armed men who reportedly took files containing confidential information, including the names of the members of *Entre Amigos*. *Entre Amigos* usually meets at the offices of FUNDASIDA, although they have had to cancel their next meeting because they fear for their lives.

Wilfredo Valencia Palacios, president of *Entre Amigos* and Deputy Director of the Oscar Romero AIDS project, was threatened with death by unidentified armed men in several occasions between October and November 1994 (see *El Salvador: Aids worker in danger*, AMR 29/13/94, December 1994).

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the death threats received by members of *Entre Amigos*, a gay men's group in El Salvador;
- requesting that measures be taken to guarantee the safety of all members of *Entre Amigos* and in particular that of its president Wilfredo Valencia Palacios, who was the target of death threats during October and November 1994;
- calling on the authorities to make clear their condemnation of the threats and urging a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation and that those found responsible are brought to justice;
- asking what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations of the *Grupo Conjunto* with regard to the eradication of the "death squad"-style groups.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of the Republic

S.E. Dr Armando Calderón Sol
Presidente de la República, Casa Presidencial,
San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Presidente Calderón Sol, San Salvador, El Salvador

Telexes: 30344 RS SAL

Faxes: +503 271-2947 / 271-1334 / 221-4532

2) National Counsel for the Defense of Human Rights

Dra. Victoria de Aviles
Procuradora para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos

9ª Av. Norte y 5ª Calle Pte. Edificio AMSA, No 535
San Salvador, El Salvador
Telegrams: Procuradora DDHH, San Salvador, El Salvador
Faxes: +503 2 71 2886 / 2 44 3121

3) Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Oscar Alfredo Santamaría
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Boulevard Manuel Enrique Araujo Km.6
San Salvador, El Salvador
Telegrams: Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, San Salvador, El Salvador
Faxes: +503 2 98 0334 / 98 0314
Telexes: 20179 RREE SAL

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Non-governmental organization

FUNDASIDA
23 Calle Pte. No 1155
San Salvador
El Salvador

2) Daily newspapers

Diario Latino
23 Av. Sur N° 225
Apartado Postal 96
San Salvador, El Salvador

La Prensa Gráfica
3ª Calle Poniente, N° 130
San Salvador, El Salvador
Telephone: (503-2) 71-333

and to diplomatic representatives of El Salvador accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International secretariat,
or your section office if sending appeals after 18 August 1995.