

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 34/16/94  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 116/94      Death threats/Harassment

23 March 1994

GUATEMALA    Gustavo Eduardo LAPOLA  
                 Víctor Hugo GUDIEL  
                 and other members of the Asociación de Estudiantes  
Universitarios (AEU), Association of University Students

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of members of the *Asociación de Estudiantes Universitarios* (AEU), Association of University Students, based at the University of San Carlos (USAC) in Guatemala City, following a recent series of threats and harassment of members of the organization's leadership.

According to reports, on 10 March 1994 Gustavo Eduardo Lapola, who is a member of the AEU's Executive Committee and coordinator of the *Comisión Multisectorial de Reforma Universitaria*, Multisectorial Commission of University Reform, was subjected to an attack by unknown men. The men, who were reportedly driving a car with tinted windows, tried to intercept Gustavo Lapola's vehicle and then followed him to his home and fired upon it. The manner of the operation suggests possible involvement of the security forces or people acting with their acquiescence.

On 13 March another AEU leader was intercepted by two men on a motorcycle whose faces were covered. They reportedly told him to tell Gustavo Eduardo Lapola that he had 24 hours in which to leave the country and to inform Víctor Hugo Gudiel to stop meddling or else he would risk the same fate.

According to reports, various members of the AEU leadership have recently received several anonymous telephoned death threats and have been photographed by unknown people.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

USAC has been targetted on several occasions in the past and members of the AEU in particular have been subjected to human rights violations. In May 1993 AEU member Mario José Colindres was killed in circumstances suggesting a possible extrajudicial execution (see UA 171/93, AMR 34/29/93, 26 May 1993). In January and October 1992 bombs exploded outside the offices of the AEU at the University of San Carlos in Guatemala City (see UA 41/92, AMR 34/08/92, 5 February 1992 and UA 313/92, AMR 34/43/92, 8 October 1992). The October bombing followed a series of death threats received by AEU members, including Víctor Hugo Gudiel, and students, involved in a legal action against Hunapú, the Guatemalan special security force unit. Hunapú were responsible for the killing in April 1992 of teacher-training student Julio Cuc Quim (see UA 123/92, AMR 34/16/92, 15 April and follow-ups AMR 34/16/92, 28 April 1992, AMR 34/64/93, 16 September 1993).

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

- expressing concern at the threats and harassment to which AEU members, including Gustavo Eduardo Lapola and Víctor Hugo Gudiel, have recently been subjected to;

- asking for an immediate investigation into these event and that those found responsible be brought to justice;

- asking for guarantees for the safety of all members of the AEU.

#### APPEALS TO

##### 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 2 347 364**  
**Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU**  
**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President**

##### 2) Minister of Interior:

Lic. Danilo Parrinello Blanco  
 Ministro de Gobernación  
 Ministerio de Gobernación  
 Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8  
 Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 515 368**  
**Telexes: 5085 MINGOB**  
**Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**

##### 3) Minister of Defence:

Gral. Mario Enríquez Morales  
 Ministro de Defensa  
 Ministerio de Defensa  
 Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Fax: + 502 2 515 252 + 502 2 21906**  
**Telexes: 5361 COMGUA GU**  
**Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**

#### COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

##### Human Rights Procurator:

Lic. Jorge García Laguardia  
 Procurador de los Derechos Humanos  
 12 Avenida 12-72, Zona 1,  
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Faxes: + 502 2 81734**

##### Head of the Presidential Commission Coordinating the Policies of the Executive relating to Human Rights:

Lic. Jorge Gonzalo Cabrera Hurtarte  
 Presidente  
 COPREDEH  
 15 Avenida 18-38, Zona 13  
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA

##### Association of University Students

Asociación de Estudiantes Universitarios

"Oliverio Castañeda de León" (AEU)  
Ciudad Universitaria  
Zona 12  
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 4 May 1994.