

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 322/93 Bomb attack and Threats/Intimidation

14 September 1993

**GUATEMALA: Members of the Asociación Guatemalteca de Juristas (AGJ),
Guatemalan Association of Jurists, and Members of the Consejo
Nacional de Desplazados de Guatemala (CONDEG), National Council
of the Displaced of Guatemala**

Amnesty International is concerned about recent acts of intimidation against members of human rights organizations in Guatemala and is seriously concerned for their safety.

According to reports, on 10 September 1993 a bomb exploded at the offices of the Asociación Guatemalteca de Juristas (AGJ), Guatemalan Association of Jurists, in Guatemala City. The bomb apparently caused serious damage to furniture and documentation, but nobody was harmed. Members of the AGJ, which is a section of the International Association of Democratic Jurists, have stated that they will continue their work in spite of this act of intimidation.

On the same day, two armed men reportedly arrived at the Primer Asentamiento de Desplazados Internos Mario Antonio Díaz, the First Settlement of Internal Displaced Peoples Mario Antonio Díaz, and asked to speak to the leaders of the Consejo Nacional de Desplazados de Guatemala (CONDEG), National Council of the Displaced of Guatemala. A few minutes later they apparently fired some 14 shots into the air, thus trying to intimidate the many families living in the settlement.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For many years Amnesty International has been concerned about human rights violations directed against specific groups, including trade unionists, student leaders, journalists and those working with non-governmental organizations, particularly those attempting to investigate and protect human rights. These violations, including threats, torture, "disappearances", and extrajudicial executions, have sometimes been preceded by acts of intimidation and surveillance.

CONDEG was founded in September 1989 to defend the rights of displaced Guatemalans, the majority of them indigenous peasants, who fled areas of conflict during the Guatemalan army's counter-insurgency campaign of the late 1970s and early 1980s. The army apparently continues to consider displaced persons, and those working with them, particularly those affiliated to CONDEG, as "subversive," and members and leaders of the group have suffered human rights violations in recent years, including "disappearance," extrajudicial execution, intimidation and harassment. Most recently, as reported in UA 309/93 (AMR 34/59/93, 7 September 1993) a member of CONDEG, Maurillo Chiquin, was harassed by armed men. Also, in August, CONDEG members were amongst the demonstrators who were fired upon in Colotenango, Huehuetenango on 3 August

1993 by members of the Civil Defence patrols. At least one person died in the attack and several others were reportedly wounded. The demonstrators had been staging a peaceful protest against alleged threats and harassment of local families by members of the Guatemalan army and the Civil Defence Patrols (see UA 259/93, AMR 34/52/93, 6 August 1993).

The Secretary of the Executive Board of the AGJ, Fernando René De León Solano, was harassed in July 1993 (see UA 246/93, AMR 34/50/93, 29 July 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 bomb attack on the offices of the AGJ and intimidation of members of CONDEG on 10 September 1993;
- noting that the previous pattern of abuses against CONDEG members by members of the Guatemalan security forces and the paramilitary Civil Defence Patrols suggests that those firing shots in the settlement of Mario Antonio Díaz may have been official security force agents or Civil Defence Patrollers acting at military behest;
- urging that these incidents be immediately investigated and those responsible brought to justice, and that steps be immediately taken to ensure the physical integrity of all members of the AGJ and of CONDEG.

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 537472, + 502 2 519702

Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President

2) Minister of Interior:

Lic. Arnoldo Ortiz Moscoso
Ministro de Gobernación
Ministerio de Gobernación
Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala

Faxes: + 502 2 518105

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

Faxes: + 502 2 537472

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

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 26 October 1993.