

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

File Index: AMR 34/70/93  
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UA 358/93 Death Threats

7 October 1993

GUATEMALA

Rigoberta MENCHU, indigenous leader  
Juan José RODIL PERALTA, Supreme Court President  
Rosalina TUYUC )  
Rosario PU GOMEZ ) human rights workers  
Nineth MONTENEGRO )  
Fernando LOPEZ ANTILBON )  
Léonor PÁZ Y PÁZ, writer  
María TOJ )  
Romero MONTERROSA ) trade union members  
Byron MORALES )  
Otto PERALTA )  
Marco Augusto QUIROGA, painter  
Marco Vinicio MEJIA DAVILA )  
Hugo ARCE )  
Arnoldo XITUMUL ) journalists  
Carlos RAFAEL SOTO )  
Haroldo SANCHEZ )  
Marina CORONADO )  
Héctor ROSADO, head of governmental delegation for the peace negotiations  
Guillermo GIRON VALDEZ  
Carlos SÁY  
Marco TULLIO JUAREZ

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On 5 October 1993 a communication signed by a group calling itself the Movimiento Anticomunista 'Roberto Lorenzana', Anticomunist Movement 'Roberto Lorenzana', was placed under the doors of certain human rights organizations. This communication accuses Supreme Court President Juan José Rodil Peralta and indigenous leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú, of links with the leadership of the *Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional de Guatemala* (URNG), Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, the broad front grouping of the Guatemalan armed opposition. It declares "*guerra abierta*" (open war) on them and that Juan José Rodil Peralta's days are numbered. Amnesty International fears for their safety.

The communication also threatens the 20 other people listed above, stating that they have 72 hours to leave the country or else they will be considered as military targets ("*tienen un plazo de setenta y dos horas para abandonar el país o serán considerados objetivos militares*").

On a number of occasions in the past, those named on death lists or accused by the authorities of having links with the armed opposition in Guatemala have subsequently been assaulted, and a number killed. Several amongst those included on this latest death list have been threatened, including, Rosario Pú Gómez and Rosalina Tuyuc of the *Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala* (CONAVIGUA), National Coordinating Committee of Widows of Guatemala (see UA 39/92, AMR 34/07/92, 4 February 1992 and UA 182/90, AMR 34/39/90, 29 June 1990); Nineth Montenegro of the *Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo por el Aparecimiento con Vida de Nuestros Familiares* (GAM), Mutual

Support Group for the Appearance of Our Relatives Alive, has received countless death threats, the latest of which was in September 1993 (see UA 335/93, AMR 34/65/93, 21 September 1993). Also threatened were Byron Morales and Romeo Monterrosa, of the *Unidad de Acción Sindical y Popular* (UASP), Unity of Trade Union and Popular Action, and Otto Peralta, who is a legal advisor of the *Asociación de Estudiantes Universitarios* (AEU), Association of University Students. The AEU offices were the object of bomb attacks twice in 1992, many of its members received threats throughout that year and in May 1993 AEU member Mario José Colindres was killed (see UA 171/93, AMR 34/29/93, 26 May 1993). Hugo Arce, a journalist for *Siglo XXI*, has also repeatedly received threats in the past. Several of those named above were included in an anonymous flyer circulated in Guatemala City on 27 March 1993 which accused 24 people of "being spokespersons for, defenders of, and sympathizers with the subversion and its organizations" (see UA 96/93, AMR 34/14/93, 2 April 1993). Fernando López Antillon is the legal advisor for the *Oficina de Derechos Humanos del Arzobispado de Guatemala* (ODHAG), the human rights office of the archbishop, and has come to play a pivotal role in the protection of human rights.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Trade unionists, student leaders, journalists and those working with non-governmental organizations, particularly those attempting to investigate and protect human rights have been long-term targets of abuses in Guatemala, including harassment, threats, torture, "disappearances", and extrajudicial executions. Such abuses have sometimes been preceded by anonymous death threats, such as those issued in this instance.

**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 received by the persons named above in a communication dated 5 October 1993 from the so-called *Movimiento Anticomunista 'Roberto Lorenzana'*;
- urging the government to take immediate measures to protect the safety of all those named in the communication;
- asking for an immediate investigation into these threats and that those responsible be brought to justice.

#### **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

Human rights organizations

Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo por el Aparecimiento

con Vida de Nuestros Familiares (GAM)

5a. Avenida 9-11, Zona 12

Ciudad de Guatemala

GUATEMALA

Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas

de Guatemala (CONAVIGUA)

8a. Avenida 2-29

Zona 1, Guatemala

GUATEMALA

Newspaper

Siglo XXI

7a Avenida 11-63

Edificio Galerías España, 6o Piso.

Zona 9, 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 18 November 1993