

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 24/02/96

16 October 1996

Further information on UA 216/96 (AMR 24/01/96, 5 September 1996) - Fear for safety

COSTA RICAREina Xiomara ZELAYA GONZÁLEZ, and her daughters:

Maryuri Johanna ZELAYA GONZÁLEZ, aged 6 (f)

Stephanía Xiomara CABALLERO ZELAYA, aged 12 (f)

Cynthia Lorena CABALLERO ZELAYA, aged 13 (f)

---

Amnesty International has received further reports of harassment by unidentified men against Reina Xiomara Zelaya González and her daughters.

On 7 October, two men approached Stephanía Xiomara as she was leaving school with a friend. Stephanía set off running until she reached her house. The headmaster of Stephanía's school told her mother that he had once seen a black car parked outside the school.

On 14 October, Reina Xiomara Zelaya took a taxi home after dining with a friend. An hour and a half later, the friend came to her house, saying that a man had approached him just after she had left and asked where she had gone, where she lived, what her name was and so on.

Reina Zelaya and her daughters are legal residents in Costa Rica, having been granted asylum there and, as such, are entitled to the protection of the state.

In spite of appeals, the Costa Rican authorities have failed to give any protection to Reina and her family. Reina has told Amnesty International that she is now desperate to leave Costa Rica: "*I can't face any more of this harassment,*" she said [*No puedo más con este hostigamiento*].

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

- expressing alarm at further reports of harassment of Reina Xiomara Zelaya and her daughters, believed to be the work of members of the Honduran security forces;
- asking the Costa Rican authorities what measures they have taken to guarantee the safety of Reina Xiomara Zelaya and her family and urging that every effort be made to protect them from further threats;
- reiterating calls for an investigation into the reports of threats and harassment against the family and urging that anyone found responsible be immediately brought to justice;
- requesting that the Costa Rican authorities raise this as a matter of urgency with the Honduran government.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President of Costa Rica

Dr. José María Figueres Olsen

Presidente de la República de Costa Rica

Casa Presidencial

Apartado 10089

1000 San José, COSTA RICA

**Telegrams: President Figueres, San José, Costa Rica**

**Faxes: + 506 253 9078**

**Salutation: Señor Presidente / Dear President**

2) Interior Minister in Costa Rica

Bernardo Arce Gutiérrez  
Ministro de Seguridad y Gobernación  
Ministerio de Seguridad y Gobernación  
Apartado 4768  
1000 San José, COSTA RICA  
**Telegrams: Ministro Gobernación, San José, Costa Rica**  
**Faxes: + 506 253 6243**  
**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

1) Human Rights Commissioner (Honduras)

Lic. Leo Valladares Lanza  
Comisionado Nacional de los Derechos Humanos  
Avda. Los Próceres 3623  
Tegucigalpa MDC., HONDURAS  
**Fax: + 504 36 7213**  
**E-mail: conadeh1@ns.gbm.hn**

2) Office for the Defence of the People (Costa Rica)

Sr. Rodrigo Alberto Carazo  
Defensoría de los Habitantes de la República  
Apdo Postal 1240-1007  
San José, COSTA RICA  
**Faxes: + 506 296 2512**

3) UNHCR in Costa Rica

ACNUR  
Apartado Postal 12  
Ferrocarril Pacífico  
1009 San José, COSTA RICA  
**Faxes: + 506 234 0431 / 224 4891**

4) Newspaper in Costa Rica

La Nación  
Llorente de Tibás  
Apartado 10138  
San José, COSTA RICA  
**Faxes: + 506 240 6480**

5) Newspaper in Honduras

Diario Tiempo  
Altos del Centro Comercial Prisa  
Colonia Miramontés  
Tegucigalpa, HONDURAS  
**Faxes: + 504 31 0422**

and to diplomatic representatives of Costa Rica accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 November 1996.