

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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LIMITED ACTION - NO MORE THAN 20 APPEAL PER SECTION

UA 220/94

Death Threats / Fear for safety

8 June 1994

EL SALVADOR Carlos MOLINA FONSECA, Human Rights Procurator
Juan Jerónimo CASTILLO, Attorney General
Eduardo TOMASINO, President of the National Council of the Judiciary
Jesuit Priests of the University of Central America (UCA)

Those listed above have reportedly been subjected to death threats by the "death squad" *Comando Domingo Monterrosa*.

The reports indicate that on 6 June 1994, individuals identifying themselves as members of the *Comando Domingo Monterrosa*, (named after a military official killed in the 1980s) telephoned various representatives of the Salvadorian media. The callers issued death threats against Carlos Molina Fonseca, *Procurador para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos* (Human Rights Procurator), Juan Jerónimo Castillo, *Fiscal General de la República* (Attorney General), and Eduardo Tomasino, *Presidente del Consejo Nacional de la Judicatura* (President of the National Council of the Judiciary). The callers allegedly warned that those threatened would be executed within 48 hours if they did not leave El Salvador. The death threats were extended to the Jesuit priests of the *Universidad Centroamericana* (UCA), University of Central America, without specific names being given.

Carlos Molina Fonseca and Juan Jerónimo Castillo are members of the governmental investigative commission known as the *Grupo Conjunto* (Joint Group) created to look into apparently political killings by "illegal armed groups". Eduardo Tomasino, as President of the National Council of the Judiciary is in charge of judicial reforms to make the judiciary more independent and effective in combatting human rights abuses. Jesuit priests of the UCA have been outspoken in their condemnation of human rights violations in El Salvador.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The vast majority of recent political killings, attacks and threats remain uninvestigated. In March 1993 the Truth Commission, appointed as a result of the 1992 peace accords, concluded that "death squads" linked to state structures were an instrument of terror and called for urgent investigations into these groups as they posed a threat to society. In early December 1993 the government set up the Joint Group to investigate "illegal armed groups". Its findings were to be published in May 1994 but publication has been postponed until the end of July 1994.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters either in [preferred language] or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the "death-squad"-style threats against Carlos Molina Fonseca, Juan Jerónimo Castillo, Eduardo Tomasino and the Jesuit priests of the UCA and asking for measures to guarantee their safety;
- asking that immediate steps be taken to identify those responsible and bring them to justice;
- asking for assurances that the Joint Group be allowed to complete its work without intimidation to its members;
- stating that the eradication of "death squads" and the bringing to justice

of their members is an essential guarantee for the respect of human rights in the future.

APPEALS TO

President of the Republic

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

Telegrams: Presidente Calderón, San Salvador. El Salvador

Faxes + 503 710950

Telexes: 30344 RS SAL

Salutation: Su Excelencia/ Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

Dr. Ruben Antonio Mejia
 Ministro de Justicia
 Ministerio de Justicia
 Av. Masferrer N° 612-b
 Colonia Lomas Verde
 San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Ministro de Justicia, San Salvador. El Salvador

Faxes + 503 23-2611

Salutation: Sr.Ministro/ Minister of Justice

Minister of Interior

Dr. Roberto Angulo Samayoa
 Ministro de Interior
 Ministerio del Interior
 Centro de Gobierno
 San Salvador, El Salvador

Telegrams: Ministro del Interior San Salvador, El Salvador

Faxes: + 503 71-2484

Salutation: Señor Ministro

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

National Counsel for the Defence of Human Rights

Dr. Carlos Molina Fonseca
 Procurador para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
 Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
 9ª Avda. Norte y 5ª Calle Pte.
 Edificio AMSA, N° 535
 San Salvador, El Salvador

Faxes: + 503 71 2886

National commission for the Consolidation of Peace (COPAZ)

Comisión Nacional para la Consolidación de la Paz (COPAZ)
 Asamblea Legislativa 6º Planta
 Edificio Centro de Gobierno
 San Salvador, El Salvador

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 20 July 1994.