

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 30/94 Death Threats/Fear for Safety/
Possible Extrajudicial Executions

31 January 1994

GUATEMALA Threatened: Estela NIMAJUÁN (pregnant) and her four children:
Claudia María COLO, aged 12
Guillermo Gonzalo COLO, aged 9
Baudillo COLO, aged 6
Juanito COLO, aged 4

Killed: Juan COLO PICHOL, aged 34
Mario COLO MARTÍNEZ, aged 15
Manuel CHÁVEZ ZUNÚN, aged 23

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Estela Nimajuán and her four children, Claudia María, Guillermo Gonzalo, Baudillo and Juanito, following the killing of her husband Juan Colo Pichol. Since the killing, the five have continued to receive death threats from the alleged perpetrator, identified by the Human Rights Procurator as a member of the armed forces. Amnesty International believes that Juan Colo Pichol and two others, Mario Colo Martínez and Manuel Chávez Zunún, killed on the same day, may have been extrajudicially executed.

According to reports, on 25 December 1993 Juan Colo Pichol, who worked with the Human Rights Auxiliary (local representative of the Human Rights Procurator) of Chimaltenango, was killed in the presence of two of his children, allegedly by a member of military intelligence G-2. Two other human rights workers in Chimaltenango, Mario Colo Martínez and Manuel Chávez Zunún, were also killed on the same day.

The Human Rights Procurator, through his Auxiliary in Chimaltenango, has requested that the law courts issue an arrest warrant for the person named as responsible for the killings. The Human Rights Auxiliary has also made a denunciation before a lower court in Chimaltenango and asked that the necessary protection is granted to the surviving relatives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 6 June 1993 Ramiro de León Carpio, former Human Rights Procurator, was voted President by Congress to serve out the remaining term of President Jorge Serrano Elías. Ex-president Serrano had been forced from office after trying to seize near-dictatorial powers on 25 May 1993. When President de León Carpio came to power there were expectations that he might be able to improve the human rights situation, due to his former role as Human Rights Procurator. However, since he assumed office, incidents of threats and intimidation have continued.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail

letters either in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern about the killings of Juan Colo Pichol, Mario Colo Martínez and Manuel Chávez Zunún in circumstances suggesting that they were extrajudicially executed;
- expressing concern for the safety of the wife of Juan Colo Pichol, Estela Nimajuán, as well as her four children, who have reportedly been receiving death threats;
- urging that measures be taken to ensure their physical safety;
- asking for an immediate investigation into these killings and into the subsequent death threats and that those found responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO1) 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 2 515 368
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
Faxes: + 502 2 515 252 / 537 472
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

Archbishop's Human Rights Office

Oficina de Derechos Humanos del
 Arzobispado de Guatemala (ODHAG)
 Apartado Postal 723

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 14 March 1994.