

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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27 January 1992

*Please bring this action to the attention of the person responsible for work on indigenous peoples in your section*

Further information on UA 387/91 (AMR 34/45/91, 11 November 1991) - Threats/Intimidation

GUATEMALA: Luisa RUIZ SAQUIC

and new names Florencio COJ GARCIA  
Guadalupe COJ GARCIA  
Manuel CHINGO DE LA CRUZ  
Mariano DE LA CRUZ

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plus 11 other villagers from Tunajá

Amnesty International has learned of renewed threats and arrests of members of the Quiché indian community in Tunajá, Zacualpa, El Quiché department. These follow threats made against Luisa Ruiz Saquic, a member 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, and 11 other villagers of Tunajá in November 1991 (see original urgent action).

According to information received, on 13 December 1991 further exhumations of the remains of those buried in clandestine cemeteries were carried out in Tunajá. Florencio Coj García, who participated in the preparation of the excavation of graves, along with other members of the community, was subsequently threatened by the local comisionado militar (military commissioner - a civilian agent of the armed forces). On 18 January 1992, the same military commissioner reportedly attacked Florencio Coj with a machete. Florencio Coj raised his arms to defend himself; some of the fingers of his right hand were almost amputated before he managed to escape. The military commissioner reportedly then went to the military detachment in Zacualpa, the municipal capital, and accused Florencio Coj García of being a "guerrilla". In the past many of those labelled subversives or guerrillas by the armed forces or their agents, have been subjected to human rights violations, including torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution by the armed forces.

On the following day, 19 January 1992, Guadalupe Coj García, the brother of Florencio Coj, along with two other members of the Tunajá community, Manuel Chingo de la Cruz and Mariano de la Cruz, were arrested without warrant by the head of the local military detachment and six soldiers. They were taken to the military detachment in Zacualpa and reportedly accused of being subversives. The detainees reported that during interrogation the head of the detachment asked for their names which he checked against a list he held in his hands of those members of the Tunajá community suspected by the armed forces of being subversives. On the list was the name of Manuel Chingo de la Cruz. All three were subsequently released after residents of Tunajá demonstrated against their capture. Moments before their release, however, the detainees reported that the soldiers forced

them to sign a paper, written in Spanish, which they were not permitted to read.

Florencio Coj and his brother Guadalupe left their village in fear for their lives. Neighbours subsequently reported that the local military commissioner had stated that if they returned, he would kill them.

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**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the attack against Florencio Coj García allegedly carried out by an agent of the armed forces and the apparent arbitrary arrest of a further three members of the community;

- urging the government to take immediate steps to ensure the security of those members of the Tunajá community threatened, particularly Florencio Coj and his brother Guadalupe;

- asking also for guarantees of safety for those involved in pressing for exhumations;

- asking for an investigation into the attack on Florencio Coj García and that those found to be responsible be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President:

S.E. Jorge Serrano Elías  
Presidente de la República de Guatemala  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Telegrams: Presidente Serrano, Guatemala,  
Guatemala**  
**Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 537472; + 502 2 519702**  
**Tel No: + 502 2 21212, + 502 2 22266**

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente /  
Dear President**

2) Minister of the Interior:

Lic. Fernando Hurtado Prem  
Ministro de Gobernación  
Despacho Ministerial  
Oficina No. 8, Primer Nivel  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Telegrams: Ministro Gobernación,  
Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Telexes: 5085 MINGOB GU**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 518105**  
**Tel No: + 502 2 21212, ext 500;  
518105-6**

**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

President of the Supreme Court:

3) Minister of Defence:

General José García Samayoa  
Ministro de Defensa  
Ministerio de Defensa  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Guatemala,  
Guatemala**  
**Telexes: 5361 COMGUA GU**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 537472**  
**Tel No: + 502 2 21212, ext 2226**

**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**

4) Attorney General:

Señor Acisclo Valladares  
Procurador General de la Nación  
Procuraduría General de la Nación  
18 Calle 10-36  
Zona 1, Guatemala  
Guatemala  
**Telegrams: Procurador General, Guatemala,  
Guatemala**  
**Tel No: + 502 2 64697, + 502 2 313656  
or + 502 2 518385**

**Salutation: Señor Procurador General / Dear  
Attorney General**

Dr. Edmundo Vásquez Martínez

Presidente de la Corte  
Suprema de Justicia  
Centro Cívico  
21a Calle y 7a Avenida  
Guatemala, Guatemala

Human Rights Procurator:  
Lic. Ramiro de León Carpio  
Procurador de Derechos Humanos  
Avenida Simeón Cañas 10-61  
Zona 2,  
Guatemala, Guatemala

First Criminal Court of the First Instance:  
Lic Jose Manuel Noriega  
Juez Primero de Primera Instancia  
Juzgado Primero de Primera Instancia  
2 Calle y 1 Avenida  
Edificio Tribunales Zona 1  
Santa Cruz del Quiché  
El Quiché, Guatemala

Mutual Support Group for the Appearance of  
Our Relatives Alive:  
Señores  
Grupo de Apoyo Mútuo (GAM)  
5a Avenida 9-11, Zona 12  
Guatemala, Guatemala

and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 March 1992.