

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Possible Extrajudicial Execution

17 February 1992

GUATEMALA:

Manuel Estuardo PEÑA (28)

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Amnesty International is concerned at the possible extrajudicial execution on 10 February 1992 of Manuel Estuardo Peña, a professor of History at the Universidad de San Carlos (USAC), San Carlos University, in Guatemala City, in circumstances suggesting security force involvement.

According to reports, on the evening 10 February 1992, two unidentified men in plain clothes carrying a photograph of Manuel Peña arrived at his home at a block of apartments in Zone 12 of Guatemala City and questioned his wife about her husband's whereabouts. His wife reported that the men waited outside the apartment for her husband's return. Approximately half-an-hour later she heard three shots being fired and found her husband dead outside the apartment. Witnesses reported seeing the assailants drive away from the scene of the shooting in an unmarked car with polarized windows.

Manuel Peña had been working with his local community in Zone 12, a deprived area of Guatemala City, on developing an organization involving internally displaced people and women. Sources in Guatemala believe his killing may have been carried out with the connivance of the official security forces.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In the past weeks, leaders of human rights, trade union organizations and students have been the subject of a renewed wave of threats and intimidation. On 26 January 1992 leaders of human rights and trade union organizations in Guatemala were cited by name in a death threat issued by a so-called "death squad", Unidad Anticomunista, Anti-communist unit. On 31 January 1992, Rosa Pu Gómez, a member of the Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala (CONAVIGUA), National Coordinating Committee of Widows of Guatemala, was held at gunpoint by a man who asked her about her supposed links with armed-opposition groups (see UA 39/92, AMR 34/07/92, 4 February 1992). On 30 January 1992, a bomb exploded outside the offices of the Asociación de Estudiantes Universitarios (AEU), Association of University Students of the USAC (see UA 41/92, AMR 34/08/92, 5 February 1992).

President Jorge Serrano Elías came to power in January 1991. During his presidential campaign he pledged to ensure protection of human rights. However, Amnesty International remains seriously concerned at continuing human rights violations in Guatemala, including extrajudicial executions, death threats, torture and "disappearances". As in past years, the choice of victim and the manner in which the abuses have been carried out suggest the involvement of members of the official security forces.

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

- expressing concern at the possible extrajudicial execution of Manuel Peña;
- asking that a full and impartial investigation be initiated immediately into his killing and that the results be made public;
- urging that those found responsible be brought to justice.

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#### 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**

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

##### 2) 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**

**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister**  
**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

##### Human Rights Procurator:

Lic. Ramiro de León Carpio  
 Procurador de Derechos Humanos  
 Avenida Simeón Cañas 10-61  
 Zona 2,  
 Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Faxes: +502 2 512026**

##### Rector of University of San Carlos:

Sr. Rector  
 Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala (USAC)  
 Ciudad Universitaria  
 Zona 12, Guatemala  
 Guatemala  
 and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala in your country

##### 3) Minister of Education:

Sra. María Luisa Beltranena de Padilla  
 Ministro de Educación  
 Ministerio de Educación  
 Palacio Nacional  
 Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Telegrams: Ministro Educacion Beltranena, Guatemala, Guatemala**

**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**

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

##### University Students Association of the

University of San Carlos:  
 Asociación de Estudiantes Universitarios (USAC)  
 Ciudad Universitaria  
 Zona 12, Guatemala  
 Guatemala

##### Newspaper:

Diario Prensa Libre  
 13 Calle 9-31, 50 Nivel  
 Edificio Prensa Libre  
 Zona 1  
 Guatemala, Guatemala

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section

office, if sending appeals after 30 March 1992.