

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 34/11/96

12 April 1996

Further information on UA 30/95 (AMR 34/02/95, 10 February 1995) and follow-up (AMR 34/29/95, 31 October 1995) - Fear for safety

GUATEMALA Amílcar Méndez Urízar, parliamentary representative

Tomaso Micaela Mateo Taquiej (f), 17-year-old, daughter of above

Amnesty International is concerned about continuing threats and harassment against Amílcar Méndez Urízar, parliamentary representative of the *Frente Democrático Nueva Guatemala (FDNG)*, "New Guatemala" Democratic Front, and founder member of the CERJ Council of Ethnic Communities "We are all equal", (*Consejo de Comunidades Etnicas "Runujel Junam"*), and his family.

According to reports, on 11 April 1995, at 1pm, when his daughter Tomasa Micaela Mateo Taquiej came back home, she found four unidentified and heavily armed men who had broken into Amílcar Méndez's house. She was blindfolded and forced to drink a unspecified drug and was later found by her sister unconscious and undressed. She is currently undergoing medical tests to determine her condition. Reportedly, some money left on the table to pay bills was not stolen during the assault.

On 10 April 1996, Amílcar Méndez received a letter from the "*Jaguar Justiciero*", a "death squad", in which he was accused of being a communist. The same day that this incident happened, members of the FDNG were giving a press conference denouncing that they had received death threats signed by this death squad.

The UN Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (*MINUGUA, Misión de las Naciones Unidas de Verificación de Derechos Humanos en Guatemala*) and the Human Rights Procurator have already initiated a investigation into the incident.

In October 1995, Amílcar Méndez and his family suffered similar incidents (see original Urgent Action and previous follow-up, and see also *Continuing harassment against Amílcar Méndez Urízar and his family*, AMR 34/50/92, for further information about other incidents os harassment against him and his family).

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

- calling for immediate steps to be taken to guarantee the safety of Amílcar Méndez Urízar and his family;
- calling for an immediate and thorough investigation into the reported incidents, including death threats to members of FDNG, and that those responsible be brought to justice;

APPEALS TO:

1) President of the Republic:

S.E. Alvaro Arzú Irigoyen

Presidente de la República de Guatemala

Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Faxes: +502 2 22117

Telegrams: Presidente, Guatemala, Guatemala

Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President

2) Minister of Interior

Lic. Rodolfo Mendoza

Ministro de Gobernación

Ministerio de Gobernación

Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8, Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

3) Minister of Defence

Gral. Julio Arnoldo Balconi Turcios

Ministro de Defensa

Ministerio de Defensa

Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Guatemala, Guatemala

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Fiscal General

Lic. Ramsés Guestras Gómez

Fiscal General de la Nación

Ministerio Público

18 Calle 10-36, Zona 1, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Faxes: +502 2 317066

Human Rights Procurator

Lic. Jorge García Laguardia

Procurador de los Derechos Humanos

12 Avenida 12-72, Zona 1, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Faxes: +502 2 81734

Human Rights Organization

Señores CERJ

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GUATEMALA

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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 30 May 1996.