

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 395/94 (AMR 34/43/94, 3 November 1994) and follow-up (AMR 34/06/95, 9 March 1995) - Fear for Safety

**GUATEMALA** Félix GONZÁLEZ, trade union leader  
Débora GUZMÁN CHUPÉN (f), trade unionist, aged 23, wife of Félix González  
Julio COJ, trade union leader  
José GIL, trade unionist  
and 49 workers of Lunafil S.A.

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Workers at the *Lunafil S.A.* textile factory in Amatitlán, Department of Guatemala, have reported that on 20 May 1995, Débora Guzmán Chupén received a new death threat. This is the latest in a series of threats and other acts of intimidation against *Lunafil* trade unionists and workers which began in May 1994, when a group of 49 workers began a protest outside the factory against what they claimed was its illegal and unjustified closure.

Débora Guzmán Chupén, a trade unionist at the *L y L Modas* factory, is married to Félix González, a leading *Lunafil* trade unionist. In February 1995 she was abducted, and told that she would be killed if she did not convince her husband to stop his union activities. She was released a day later, and shortly after received a written death threat at her home, warning her to ensure that her husband resigned from the union within 72 hours.

The latest threat has come in the form of an anonymous hand-written letter delivered to her home: "*We have given you enough time and you have not done what we told you to do... We had you in our hands, but you do not seem to understand. But we are going to make sure you do understand. We are giving you 8 days to comply. Start counting the days. Think about your parents and about your future. It is not worth dying over something you yourself can prevent happening. Do not leave your house, as we have you under surveillance...*"

An Amnesty International delegation which recently visited Guatemala met with the workers to collect first-hand testimonies regarding the harassment they have been suffering. It seems that, despite the threats against Débora Guzmán and her abduction in February, no inquiries have been initiated by the authorities. It is believed that, as occurred in the context of previous labour disputes at *Lunafil* in 1987 and 1988, private security guards hired by the *Lunafil* management and acting with the acquiescence or complicity of the Guatemalan security forces may be responsible for the abuses against her and other recent violations against unionists in the textile sector.

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

- expressing concern at the death threats against Débora Guzmán Chupén and Félix González, as well as other workers at the *Lunafil* factory;
- asking the government to take immediate measures to guarantee their safety and that of their families;
- calling on the authorities to initiate immediate investigations into the reported abuses and that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) 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 537472/515667**  
**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente /Dear President**

2) Minister of Interior:

Lic. Carlos Enrique Reynoso  
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**  
**Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**

3) Minister of Labour and Social Welfare:

Sra. Gladys Morfin  
Ministro de Trabajo y Previsión Social  
Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión Social  
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Ministra de Trabajo y Previsión Social Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 513 559 (if voice, say "fax, por favor")**  
**Salutation: Sra. Ministro / Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Fiscal General

Lic. Ramses Cuestas Gómez  
Fiscal General de la Nación  
Ministerio Público  
18 Calle 10-36, Zona 1  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Faxes: + 502 2 537554; + 502 2 530482**

Human Rights Procurator

Lic. Jorge García Laguardia  
Procurador de los Derechos Humanos  
12 Avenida 12-72  
Zona 1, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Trade union

Unión Sindical de Trabajadores de Guatemala (UNSI TRAGUA)  
11 Calle 8-14, Zona 1  
Oficina 34, Tercer Nivel  
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 July 1995.