

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 34/014/2004

04 August 2004

Further Information on UA 228/04 (AMR 34/012/2004, 21 July 2004) - Fear for safety/death threat

GUATEMALA

Witness of the Plan de Sánchez massacre (name withheld)  
Edda Gaviola (f), director of the *Centro para Accion Legal en Derechos Humanos* (CALDH), Centre for Human Rights Legal Action  
Other CALDH members

**New name: Miguel Angel Albizures (m), CALDH spokesperson**

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A further death threat note has been left at a CALDH office, naming the same witness to the Plan de Sánchez massacre. It also named CALDH spokesperson Miguel Angel Albizures, and said that he and other CALDH staff would be killed. CALDH staff in Guatemala City have suffered further intimidation, and although the authorities have provided police protection, it has been inadequate.

The handwritten note was left at the CALDH regional office in the town of Rabinal, in the Baja Verapaz mountains north of Guatemala city, on 1 August: it named the witness to the massacre, but for that person's safety we cannot reveal their name. It warned that "if you carry on talking to the human rights people about the massacre the days of the 80s may return" (*si siges hablando con los derechos humanos delos dela masacre los dí as pueden regresar como los años 80*). During the 1980s Guatemala was under military rule, and the army and paramilitary groups carried out several hundred massacres, including the 1982 Plan de Sánchez massacre. The note also warned that "if you don't leave this land ... you are going to die very soon" (*si no te vas de esta tierra juntos ... ban amorir muy pronto*), and that "Advisures [sic] and the others will die" (*Advisures y a los demas morira*) "Advisures" appears to be a mis-spelling of "Albizures".

CALDH director Edda Gaviola, whose house in Guatemala City was burgled twice in July, has been followed by cars with tinted windows. Another CALDH staff member has reported seeing cars with tinted windows driving past her house repeatedly. On the night of 28 July three men visited her: she recognised two of them as local, and they introduced the third man by a military title. They seemed friendly, and told her they were worried about her because they had seen strange men loitering near her house, and suggested this was connected with her work.

The police should have been providing 24-hour protection to CALDH offices in the capital since mid-July, but in practice this has been intermittent and ineffectual. CALDH say the police officers regularly disappear for hours at a time, and ignore the cars that appear to be keeping the offices under observation. On 30 July, anonymous phone calls to the CALDH headquarters in Guatemala City claimed that a bomb had been planted in the office. That day a man had loitered outside the office all morning, and talked to the driver of a car with tinted windows that passed the office, but the police had done nothing.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:**

- calling on the authorities to provide meaningful protection to CALDH members, and pointing out that the police presence now provided at CALDH offices is completely ineffectual;
- asking them also to guarantee the safety of the witness to the Plan de Sánchez massacre;
- calling for a prompt, impartial and exhaustive investigation into the death threat left at the CALDH offices in Rabinal on 1 August, and the harassment and intimidation of CALDH staff members, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of the Republic of Guatemala

Licenciado Oscar Berger Perdomo  
Presidente de la República de Guatemala  
Casa Presidencial, 6 a. Avenida, 4-18 zona 1  
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

**Fax: +502 221 4423**

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

Minister of the Interior

Carlos Vielman  
Ministro de Gobernación  
6a.Avenida 4-64, zona 4, nivel 3  
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

**Fax: +502 362 0237**

**Email: ministro@mingob.gob.gt**

**Salutation: Señor Ministro/ Dear Minister**

Attorney General

Juan Luis Florido  
Fiscal General  
Fiscalía General del Ministerio Público  
8a. Avenida 10-67, Zona 1,  
Ciudad Guatemala, Guatemala

**Fax: + 502 251 2218**

**Salutation: Estimado Fiscal General/Dear Sir**

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights organization

CALDH (Centro para la Acción Legal en  
Derechos Humanos)  
9ª Av. 2-59, Zona 1  
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

**Fax: +502 251 8163**

Human Rights Procurator

Dr. Sergio Fernando Morales Alvarado  
Procurador de los Derechos Humanos  
Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos (PDH)  
12 Avenida 12-72, zona 1, Ciudad de Guatemala  
Guatemala

**Fax: +502 238 1734**

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 September 2004.