

PUBLIC

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Fea.

GUATEMALA Ana María Pichol Guarcas, aged 12
Nicolas Pichol Calel

A public official who reportedly raped 12-year-old Ana Maria Pichol Guarcas has threatened to kill her and her father for reporting the rape.

According to accusations lodged by her family, between 7 and 12 December 1999 the official raped Ana Maria on two separate occasions after forcing his way into her family's home while her father and his wife were away. He told Ana Maria that he would kill her and her family if she resisted further rape or reported him to the authorities.

The accused, an ex-military commissioner, is currently assistant Mayor for a community in the municipality of San Pedro Yepocapa, Chimaltenango.

Despite the death threats, as soon as Ana Maria's father, Nicolas Pichol Calel, and his family learned about the rape they lodged an accusation against the official at the Office of the Public Prosecutor of Santa Lucia, Cotzumalguapa, Escuintla Department, which is now in charge of the case. The official was arrested on 28 April 2000 but released four days later. Since his release he has repeatedly threatened Nicolas Pichol Calel, saying that he will have him lynched.

Amnesty International believes that the rape of Ana Maria and the death threats against Nicolas Pichol Calel and his family are related to his work for a Guatemalan NGO that campaigns for the investigation of massacres carried out by the security forces since the 1960s and compensation for the victims' families. Members of the organisation, *Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala* (CONAVIGUA), the National Coordinator of Guatemala's Widows, and their families, have been subjected to constant intimidation by the local authorities. This intimidation has escalated since Nicolas Pichol lodged the rape accusation.

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

- calling on the authorities to fully investigate the death threats against Nicolas Pichol Calel and his family;
- calling on the authorities to continue investigations into the reported rape of Ana Maria Pichol Guarcas and bring whoever was responsible to justice;
- asking that if there appears to be a case to answer, that proceedings be reactivated against the official named by the family as responsible;
- urging the authorities to take immediate and effective measures to ensure the safety of Ana Maria Pichol Guarcas and her family.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic

Lic. Alfonso Portillo Cabrera

6a. Avenida 'A' 4-18

Zona 1

Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Presidente, Guatemala, Guatemala

Fax: + 502 221 4423

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Your Excellency

Attorney General

Lic. Adolfo González Rodas
 Fiscal General de la República
 Ministerio Público
 6a Avenida 3-11, Zona 4
 Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Fax: + 502 221 27 18 (directo)
+ 502 362 7223/3315549

Salutation: Dear Attorney General/ Estimado Señor Fiscal General

Human Rights Procurator

Lic. Julio Eduardo Arango Escobar, Procurador de Derechos Humanos
 Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos, 12 Avenida 12-72, Zona 1
 Guatemala 01001, GUATEMALA
Telegrams: Procurador Derechos Humanos, Guatemala, Guatemala
Fax: + 502 238 1734 / 2535712
E-mail: opdhg@guatenet.net.gt
Salutation: Dear Procurator/ Estimado Señor Procurador

Public Prosecutor's Office

Lic. Rodolfo Gonzalo Hernández
 Fiscal Distrital de Escuintla
 Ministerio Público
 4ª Avenida 2-39, Zona 1
 Escuintla, Escuintla, GUATEMALA
Telefax: + 502 888 0437/502 889 4099/ 889 4198-99 (ask for fax tone)
Salutation: Dear District Attorney/ Estimado Señor Fiscal Distrital

COPIES TO:CONAVIGUA

Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas
 de Guatemala (CONAVIGUA)
 8a. Avenida 2-29, Zona 1,
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Fax: + 502 232 5642
E-mail: conavigua@intelnet.net.gt
Salutation: Dear Friends/ Estimados Amigos

Newspaper

Diario "Prensa Libre"
 13 Calle 9-31, Zona 1,
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Fax: + 502 251 8768/ 2302257
E-mail: mediosselectronicos@prensalibre.com.gt
Salutation: Dear Sirs/ Estimados Señores

Magazine dealing with women's issues

Laura E. Asturias
 Revista La Cuerda
 Apartado postal 18
 Puerta Parada 01973
 12 Calle, 2-18, Local B, Zona 1,
 Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala
Tel: + 502 253 6026/27 (ask for fax tone)

E-mail: leasturias@quetzal.net

Salutation: Dear Mrs./Estimada Sra. Asturias

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 June 2000.