

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Possible Extrajudicial Execution

15 April 1992

GUATEMALA:

Julio CUC QUIM (Student)

Julio Felipe SAJCHÉ (Student of Engineering)

Otoniel Estuardo MORÁN ALDANA (Student of Agronomy)

Axel Oswaldo MORALES GAITÁN (Student of Engineering)

Alfonzo Aldana PÉREZ (Student of Veterinary Medicine)

María Isabel CABEIRO (Psychology Student)

Otto René PÉREZ FIGUEROA (Engineering Student)

Juan Armando PÉREZ LÓPEZ (Student of Medicine)

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned at the killing of a student, Julio Cuc Quim, and the wounding of a seven other students, one of whom subsequently died in hospital as a result of his injuries, by members of the newly formed security force unit, Hunapú (Hunters). Hunapú, which comprises members of the Policía Nacional (PN), National Police, Guardia de Hacienda, Treasury Police, Policía Militar Ambulante (PMA), Mobile Military Police, and members of the armed forces, came into operation in February 1992. Its official function is to combat common crime in Guatemala.

Shortly after midnight on the morning of 10 April 1992 a group of students were making preparations for the Huelga de Dolores, an annual student demonstration satirically portraying current political events in Guatemala, which traditionally takes place during Easter Week. According to information received by Amnesty International, members of Hunapú driving a large van reportedly went to a house where a number of students had gathered to participate in the preparations and engaged in an argument with the students. Other students in the area believed that members of Hunapú had detained some of the students and subsequently gathered outside the house in Zone 1 of Guatemala City. A heated argument then took place between the students and members of Hunapú. The security forces then reportedly opened fire on the students.

Local human rights groups claim the shooting was unprovoked. Amnesty International has not been able to ascertain whether the intention was to kill; most of the wounded appeared to have injuries to their lower limbs.

Julio Cuc Quim, a student of the Escuela de Formación de Profesores de Enseñanza Media (EFPEN), Training College for Secondary School Teachers, was killed in the shooting, and seven other students were wounded, one of whom, Alfonso Aldana Pérez, reportedly died later in the San Juan de Dios hospital as a result of his injuries.

Alfonso Aldana Pérez was a student of Veterinary Medicine at the Universidad de San Carlos (USAC), University of San Carlos in Guatemala City. Students preparing for the Huelga de Dolores had reported acts of provocation and intimidation by security forces in days prior to the shooting.

After the incident, Interior Minister Fernando Hurtado Prem announced that 32 members of the PMA and Treasury Police had been arrested, and that an investigation had begun into the circumstances surrounding the shooting.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In the past weeks, leaders of human rights, trade union organizations, students and university teachers have been the subject of a renewed wave of threats and intimidation. In February 1992 university lecturer Pedro Us Soc and his wife Floridalma Ixtahualán received a series of threats, apparently linked to their association with Manuel Estuardo Peña, a professor of History at the USAC. Manuel Estuardo Peña was killed on 10 February 1992, when two men came to his home and shot him as he approached his apartment in Zone 21 of Guatemala City. The manner in which the killing was carried out indicated possible security force responsibility (see UA 87/92, AMR 34/12/92 of 13 March 1992 and UA 56/92, AMR 34/09/92 of 17 February 1992).

Page 2 of UA 123/92

On 30 January 1992, a bomb exploded outside the offices of the Asociación de Estudiantes Universitarios (AEU), Association of University Students of the USAC. No one was injured in the attack (see UA 41/92, AMR 34/08/92 of 5 February 1992).

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

- expressing concern at the possible extrajudicial execution of two students and the wounding of six others by members of Hunapú;
- welcoming the investigation into the shooting announced by the Interior Minister;
- asking that the findings of the investigation be made known as soon as they are available and that any criminal acts found to have been committed be referred to the tribunals;
- asking for guarantees for the security of students participating in future Huelga de Dolores events.

**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**

3) 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**

2) Minister of the Interior:

Lic. Fernando Hurtado Prem  
Ministro de Gobernación  
Despacho Ministerial  
Oficina No. 8, Primer Nivel  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, Guatemala

**Telegrams: Ministro Gobernación,  
Guatemala, Guatemala**

**Telexes: 5085 MINGOB GU**

**Faxes: + 502 2 518105**

**Salutation: Señor Ministro /  
Dear Minister**

4) 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: Señora Ministro /  
Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Attorney General: Señor Acisclo Valladares Procurador General de la

Nación  
Procuraduría General de  
la Nación  
18 Calle 10-36  
Zona 1, Guatemala  
Guatemala

Rector of San Carlos  
University:  
Sr. Rector  
Universidad de San Carlos  
de Guatemala (USAC)  
Ciudad Universitaria  
Zona 12, Guatemala  
Guatemala

University Students  
Association of the  
University of San Carlos:  
Asociación de  
Estudiantes  
Universitarios  
Ciudad Universitaria  
Zona 12, Guatemala  
Guatemala

and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 May 1992.