

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 131/95 (AMR 34/15/95, 9 June 1995) - Death threats

GUATEMALA Dr. Julio Eduardo Arango Escobar, prosecutor
Angel Urizar, soldier
Jennifer Harbury (f), United States (US) citizen

In a press conference on 12 June 1995, Dr. Julio Eduardo Escobar reportedly announced that he had continued to receive death threats. He nonetheless stated that he would continue to press for exhumation of the site in San Marcos department where the missing opposition leader, Efraín Bámaca, may have been secretly buried. Further concern has been raised regarding the security of Dr. Arango, Jennifer Harbury and others who intend to accompany her to the site. On an earlier visit to the site Ms. Harbury was reportedly confronted by approximately 40 people, sent to this remote site, it is believed, to intimidate her.

Exhumation of the site was originally scheduled for last week, but was rescheduled for 13 June. However, permission to exhume the site had not arrived by the morning of 14 June, Guatemalan time. A Colonel who apparently took over command at the detachment in the past week has said he is not empowered to allow exhumation of the site, but must get authority from the Minister of Defence. Jennifer Harbury, Dr. Arango and the others accompanying them continue to await the permission from the Minister of Defense, and hoped to set off for the site at 10.00am on 14 June, Guatemalan time.

There have also been reports that the Ministry of Defence is only prepared to authorize one day of work to exhume the site, which has been described as being the size of two soccer fields. Amnesty International is concerned that exhumation work for one day only would not permit full investigation of the site in accordance with professional standards, and that important evidence regarding any secret burials that may have taken place there, including of Efraín Bámaca, could be lost.

There has been no further information concerning Angel Urizar who is believed to be in hiding outside the country.

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

- expressing renewed concern at these reports of new death threats against Dr. Arango.
- expressing concern at reports that Jennifer Harbury, those that are attempting to accompany her to the San Marcos grave site, those pressing for the exhumation to take place and those who have given information concerning the case may all be in danger;
- pressing the authorities to ensure protection of all those involved in the case while they carry out exhumations and forensic examinations of any remains found at the site. Stress that this is vital in order that the remains of any persons found buried there be identified, and determination made as to how they died and who was responsible. The remains can then be returned to their families for proper burial.

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 Defence:

Gral. Mario Enríquez Morales
 Ministro de Defensa
 Ministerio de Defensa
 Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Guatemala, Guatemala
Faxes: + 502 2 537472
Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

3) Commander of Military Base

Sr. Comandante
 Base Militar, Las Cabañas
 La Montañita, Malacatán, San Marcos, Guatemala
Telegrams: Comandante, Base Militar, San Marcos, Guatemala
Salutation: Sr. Comandante/ Dear Commander

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO one or more of the following:Attorney General

Lic. Ramses Cuestas Gómez
 Fiscal General de la Nación
 Ministerio Público
 18 Calle 10-36, Zona 1
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Faxes: + 502 2 304746; + 502 2 530482

Human Rights Procurator

Lic. Jorge García Laguardia
 Procurador de los Derechos Humanos
 12 Avenida, 12-72, Zona 1
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Faxes: + 502 2 3010058

Forensic Doctor of the Supreme Court

Sr. Médico Forense del Organismo Judicial
 Corte Suprema de Justicia
 Centro Cívico, 21 Calle y 7 Avenida
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Centro para la Acción Legal en
Derechos Humanos (CALDH)

6 Avenida 3-32, Zona 1
 Oficina 204
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA

US Congressman

Representative Robert G. Torricelli

1026 Longworth H. O. B.
Washington DC, 20515, USA

US Ambassador

Ambassador Marilyn McAfee
Embajada de los Estados Unidos
Avenida de la Reforma 7-01
Zona 10, Guatemala, Guatemala
Faxes: (502 2) 31 88 85

Newspaper

Siglo Veintiuno
7a Avenida 11-63
Edificio Galería España
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Zona 9, Guatemala, 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 29 July 1995.