

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 34/024/2003

11 April 2003

Further Information on UA 90/03 (AMR 34/018/2003, 3 April 2003) Fear for Safety/Intimidation

GUATEMALA	New names:	Daniel Chanchavac Zet (m), aged 16, school pupil, son of Rafael Chanchavac Cux, land activist
		Jorge Gómez (m), land activist - killed
Organizations		Daniel Pascual (m) ]
		Juan Tiney (m) ]
		Rafael Chanchavac Cux (m) ] Members of Peasant
		Gilberto Atz (m) ]
		Elizabeth Cabrera (f) ]

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Daniel Chanchavac Zet, the son of land activist Rafael Chanchavac Cux. Daniel Chanchavac Zet was reportedly kidnapped on 4 April from near his home in San Felipe, Retalhuleu department, and his whereabouts remain unknown.

His father, Rafael Chanchavac Cux, is a leader of the *Coordinadora Nacional Indígena y Campesina* (CONIC), National Indigenous and Peasant Coordination, and the *Coordinadora Nacional de Organizaciones Campesinas* (CNOC), the National Coordination of Peasant Organizations. Rafael Chanchavac Cux has been receiving anonymous telephone death threats since February 2003, which have intensified in the last month. The anonymous callers had threatened Rafael Chanchavac Cux that they knew the movements of his family and where his children study.

The threats against Rafael Chanchavac Cux are part of a recent increase in attacks on and intimidation of land activists. On 5 April land activist Jorge Gómez was killed in the community of Lanquín II, in the municipality of Morales, Izabal department. The community of Lanquín II has been the focus of continued killings, attacks and threats since 2001 due to land conflicts between the community and the plantation owner (see also UA 48/03, 18 February 2003, AMR 34/009/2003).

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the last eighteen months there has been an escalation of extrajudicial executions, attacks and intimidation directed toward a broad range of civil society sectors in Guatemala, including the peasant movement. Despite repeated denunciations of these abuses, and despite the fact that evidence gathered by peasant organizations in some cases goes some way to identifying the perpetrators, there appears to have been no genuine effort by local and national authorities to investigate the incidents and bring those responsible to justice. Furthermore, the absence of effective measures to protect land activists and human rights activists contravenes a series of international treaties ratified by the Guatemalan government and the 1996 Peace Accords, sponsored by the United Nations.

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

- expressing grave concern for the safety of Daniel Chanchavac Zet, who has not been seen since 4 April, and at the continued threats directed against Rafael Chanchavac Cux and his family, and other members of peasant organizations;
- urging the authorities to do their utmost to discover the whereabouts of Daniel Chanchavac Zet, and bring to justice those responsible for his reported kidnapping;

- urging that immediate measures be taken to ensure the safety of all members of peasant organizations and other land activists that have been threatened or intimidated;
- urging the authorities to carry out an immediate, impartial and exhaustive investigation into the killing of Jorge Gómez and to make the results public;
- calling on the government to move speedily to resolve the outstanding land disputes that have given rise to the series of abuses directed at land activists in recent years, including the latest incidents;
- urging the government to implement the land-related aspects of the 1996 Peace Accords as a necessary step towards eliminating the tensions that have led to so many abuses against peasant farmers and their leaders in recent years in Guatemala.

**APPEALS TO:**

Director General of the National Civil Police  
 Comisario General Raul Arquimedes Manchame Leiva  
 Director General de la Policia Nacional Civil  
 6a Avenida 13-71, Zona 1  
 Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Fax: + 502 251 9382**  
**Salutation: Dear Director/Senor Director**

Minister of Agriculture, Livestock & Nutrition  
 Lic. Edin Barrientos, Ministro de Agricultura Ganadería y Alimentación  
 Ministerio de Agricultura Ganadería y Alimentación  
 Edificio Monja Blanca, 70 Avenida 12-90 Zona 13  
 Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Fax: + 502 332 8302**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister/Señor Ministro**

Director of Land Trust Fund  
 Lic. Manuel de Jesús Godines  
 Gerente General,  
 Fondo de Tierras  
 7 Avenida 8-92, Zona 9,  
 Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Fax: + 502 334 6373/334 6376/334 2422 (if a voice answers please say, "fax por favor")**  
**Salutation: Dear Director/Señor Director**

Presidential Legal Assistance and Resolution of Conflicts Land Agency  
 Contierra  
 Director General Gustavo Adolfo Ceraíz  
 Av. Hincapié 5-71 Zona 13  
 Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Fax: +502 332 6468/ 332 1525 (if a voice answers, please say, "fax por favor")**  
**Salutation: Dear Director/Señor Director General**

**COPIES TO:**

National Coordinator of Peasant Organizations  
 Coordinadora Nacional de Organizaciones Campesinas (CNOC)  
 5 Calle 1-61 Zona 1  
 Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Fax: + 502 230 3196 (if a voice answers please say, "fax por favor")**

Newspaper  
 Diario Prensa Libre  
 13 Calle 9-31, Zona I  
 Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Fax: + 502 251 8768/ 230 2193/ 230 2257**

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 23 May 2003.