

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 184/91 (AMR 34/22/91, 30 May 1991) - Fear of "disappearance"

GUATEMALA: Silverio PASTOR ITZEP  
Pablo ITZEP HERNÁNDEZ  
Silverio PASTOR ITZEP TERCERO  
Teodoro PASTOR ITZEP  
Francisco PASTOR HERNÁNDEZ  
Rolando PASTOR HERNÁNDEZ  
Pablo Juan PEREZ

and new names:

Eric Rafael ITZEP CASTRO  
Oscar CIFUENTES

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Silverio Pastor Itzep, Pablo Itzep Hernández, Silverio Pastor Itzep Tercero, Teodoro Pastor Itzep, Francisco Pastor Hernández and Rolando Pastor Hernández were arrested without warrant by members of the local civil patrol in the Cantón (hamlet) Xequiquel, in Chiul, Cunén municipality, in the department of El Quiché, in late May 1991. They were handed over to military commissioners in Chiul, and presented to the local population as guerrilla collaborators. On that occasion, Rolando Pastor and Silverio Pastor Itzep both admitted to some of the charges, and accused Pablo Itzep Hernández' son, Eric Rafael Itzep Castro (not Silverio Pastor Itzep's son, as stated in the original UA), of being their leader. Silverio Pastor Itzep's son, Sebastián Pastor Itzep, was also reportedly incriminated. According to information received by Amnesty International, both Rolando Pastor and Silverio Pastor Itzep had been made to drink alcohol and consume some drugs before they were presented to the local population.

Pablo Itzep Hernández was released on 31 May 1991, after he and the others were taken to the Human Rights Procurator's office in El Quiché and made to sign a statement denying that they had been arrested and accusing Eric Itzep and Silverio Pastor Itzep of being guerrillas. In another statement filed with the Human Rights Procurator's Office, Pablo Itzep subsequently revealed that he had signed the 31 May statement under duress, and that the military commissioners released him so that he could find his son and hand him over to them. The others were released several days later, but are reportedly being kept under the close surveillance of the local civil patrol, who claim they are doing so to protect them from being kidnapped by the guerrillas.

At a meeting with CERJ representatives and Pablo Itzep on 4 June 1991, President Serrano reportedly promised to send a commission to investigate his case and to ensure his and his family's security.

Pablo Itzep returned to Xequiquel on 6 June 1991. However, he was detained by a military commissioner in Chiul who reportedly said he would kill him because *"he had been to complain to the President"* (*"porque se había ido a chillar con el Presidente"*).

The next day, the Auxiliary Human Rights Procurator of El Quiché, Lic. Oscar Cifuentes, travelled to Xequiquel in order to investigate Pablo Itzep's rearrest. Eric Rafael Itzep Castro, Pablo Itzep's son, who had taken refuge in the CERJ office in Santa Cruz del Quiché since his father's initial arrest, accompanied Lic. Cifuentes.

Upon arrival in Xequiquel, they learned that Pablo Itzep Hernández had been released earlier that day. A meeting with all men in the village was then called by the local

authorities which took place in an atmosphere of open hostility towards the Auxiliary Human Rights Procurator and Eric Itzep. They were threatened by those present, who accused them both of being guerrillas. Although no uniformed soldiers could be seen, Eric Itzep later claimed that he had recognized several soldiers from the Chiul military detachment among those present at the meeting. Eric Itzep was then asked whether he would stay or leave the hamlet. He said he would prefer to leave. At that moment, a group of men armed with machetes and knives tried to get hold of Eric Itzep, but were prevented from doing so by two others. However, Eric Itzep and Lic. Cifuentes were warned that they would not be allowed to leave Xequiquel if Eric Itzep did not sign a confession that he was a guerrilla and admitted to the blowing up of a power plant two weeks before. Eric Itzep's "confession" was drawn up by the Human Rights Procurator and signed, and they were allowed to go. As they were leaving, threats were proffered against Eric Itzep and stones were thrown at their car.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: (Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the attack and threats against Eric Itzep and the Auxiliary Human Rights Procurator in Xequiquel;
- asking for a full, impartial investigation into the incident and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- urging the government to take measures to ensure the protection of Eric Itzep and of all those mentioned in this action.

**APPEALS TO:**

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  
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Señor Acisclo Valladares  
 Procurador General de la Nación  
 Procuraduría General de la Nación  
 18 Calle 10-36  
 Zona 1, Guatemala  
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 Guatemala, Guatemala  
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Gral. Luis Francisco Mendoza García  
 Ministro de Defensa  
 Ministerio de Defensa  
 Palacio Nacional  
 Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Telegrams:** Ministro Defensa Mendoza,  
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**COPIES TO:**

(Auxiliary Human Rights Procurator,  
El Quiché)  
 Lic. Oscar Enrique Cifuentes Cabrera  
 Procuraduría Auxiliar de Derechos  
 Humanos  
 Santa Cruz del Quiché  
 El Quiché, Guatemala

Congreso Nacional de la República  
 9 Av. 9-48, Zona 1  
 Guatemala, Guatemala

Padre Andrés Girón León  
 Presidente  
 Comisión de Derechos Humanos

Señores  
Consejo de Comunidades Etnicas "Runujel  
Junam" (CERJ)  
5a Avenida 3-13, Zona 5  
Santa Cruz del Quiché  
Guatemala

Diario Siglo XXI (newspaper)  
7a Avenida 11-79  
Edificio Galerias España, 6o piso  
Zona 9, 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 26 July 1991.