

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 165/92 Possible Extrajudicial Execution

19 May 1992

**GUATEMALA: Andrés RAMÍREZ LARA, University lecturer, Faculty of Economics
Juan José ARANA PAZ, University student, Faculty of Psychology**

Amnesty International is seriously concerned at the killings of Andrés Ramírez Lara, a 40-year-old university lecturer in the Faculty of Economics at the Universidad de San Carlos (USAC), San Carlos University and Juan José Arana Paz, a 28-year-old student in the Faculty of Psychology at the USAC. Both killings took place in Guatemala City on 14 May 1992 in circumstances suggesting they may have been extrajudicially executed.

According to information received by Amnesty International, on 14 May 1992 Andrés Ramírez Lara was arriving at his home with his family, in Zone 18 of Guatemala City at approximately 6.50 p.m., when he was shot twice at point-blank range by two gunmen who were waiting for him. According to witnesses at the scene, one of the assailants shot Andrés Ramírez through the right eye. He reportedly died instantly. It is believed that Andrés Lara had recently received anonymous death threats.

Some hours later on 14 May, psychology student Juan José Arana Paz was on his way home at approximately 11.00 p.m. when he was shot dead by two unknown assailants, in Zone 1 of Guatemala City.

Amnesty International is concerned that the manner in which the killings were carried out, along with the recent increase in human rights violations against university staff and students, suggests that the killings may have been carried out by members of the security forces or those acting with their connivance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the past weeks, leaders of human rights and trade union organizations, students and university teachers have been the subject of a renewed wave of threats and intimidation. On 10 April 1992, one student was killed and seven others wounded when members of the Hunapú (Hunters) security force unit opened fire on a group of students, who were preparing for their traditional Easter celebrations. Thirty two members of Hunapú were arrested following the incident (see UA 123/92, AMR 34/16/92 of 15 April 1992). 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, 13 March 1992 and UA 56/92, AMR 34/09/92, 17 February 1992).

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, 5 February 1992).

President Jorge Serrano Elías came to power in January 1991. During his presidential campaign he had pledged to ensure protection of human rights. However, Amnesty International remains seriously concerned at continuing human rights violations in Guatemala, including extrajudicial executions, death threats, torture and "disappearances". Even in cases where the identity of the perpetrators is unclear, the choice of victim and the **page 2 of UA 165/92...**

manner in which the abuses have been carried out frequently suggest the involvement of members of the official security forces.

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

- expressing concern at the killing of university lecturer Andrés Ramírez Lara and university student Juan José Arana Paz in circumstances suggesting their possible extrajudicial execution;
- asking that the killings be immediately and impartially investigated and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- appealing for guarantees for the safety of university staff and students.

APPEALS TO:

1. President of the Republic
S.E. Jorge Serrano Elías
Presidente de la República
de Guatemala
Palacio Nacional
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Telephone: + 502 2 21212;
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[Salutation: Sr. Presidente/Dear
President]

2. Minister of Interior
Lic. Fernando Hurtado Prem
Ministro de Gobernación
Ministerio de Gobernación
Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8
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Guatemala, GUATEMALA
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COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Attorney General
Lic. Acisclo Valladares Molina
Procurador General de la Nación

3. Minister of Defence
Gral. José García Samayoa
Ministro de Defensa
Ministerio de Defensa
Palacio Nacional
Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Telephone: + 502 2 21212;
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[Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear
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4. Minister of Education
Sra. María Luisa Beltranena de
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Ministra de Educación
Ministerio de Educación
Palacio Nacional
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Telegrams: Ministro Educacion,
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[Salutation: Señora Ministra/Dear
Minister]

Procuraduría General de la Nación
18 Calle 10-36
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Human Rights Procurator
Lic. Ramiro de León Carpio
Procurador de Derechos Humanos
Avenida Simeón Cañas 10-60 Zona 2,
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Rector of the University of San
Carlos
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 (AEU)
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 30 June 1992.