

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 215/94 Fear for Safety / Extrajudicial Execution

6 June 1994

GUATEMALA Killed: Germán Alfredo DE LEÓN PARAJÓN

Fear for Safety: Nery BARRIOS and all other members of the UTQ  
Armando SÁNCHEZ, Director of FENASTEG  
Dick FLETCHER, trade unionist  
Humberto SÁNCHEZ, trade unionist  
Dante MONTERROSO, trade unionist  
José PINZÓN ) Secretary  
Conrado ALBERTO SOLÍS ) Generals  
Tránsito de Jesús LÓPEZ ) of the  
Carlos Enrique SOLÍS RAMOS ) CGTG  
Feliz HERNÁNDEZ, trade unionist of FENASEP

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On 2 June 1994, the body of Germán Alfredo de León Parajón, member and founder of the *Unión de Trabajadores de Quetzaltenango* (UTQ), Workers Union of Quetzaltenango, was found. His killing and the death threats reportedly received by members of the UTQ and other unions has heightened fears for the safety of the trade unionists listed above.

According to reports, on 31 May as Germán de León was going to the place where his daughter studies in the neighbourhood of Molina de Quetzaltenango, he was intercepted by three heavily armed men in a grey truck with tinted windows.

One of the men was wearing a uniform of the security forces. Germán de León was taken to an unknown destination. On 2 June his body was found in Godínez, department of Sololá, reportedly showing signs of torture.

Prior to this abduction, members of the UTQ had reportedly received threats.

One UTQ member, **Nery Barrios**, as well as **Armando Sánchez**, Director of the *Federación Nacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores del Estado de Guatemala* (FENASTEG), National Federation of Guatemalan State Workers, were named in a letter delivered on 2 March 1994 and signed in the name of the "Jaguar Justiciero" (this "death squad" first announced itself in February 1989). The letter threatened those listed in it with death if they did not leave Guatemala within 48 hours (see UA 86/94, AMR 34/12/94, 4 March 1994). Subsequently on 21 March 1994 five trade unionists were threatened, including **Nery Barrios**, **Armando Sánchez**, **Dick Fletcher**, **Humberto Sánchez** and **Dante Monterroso**, all members of the *Unidad de Acción Sindical y Popular* (UASP), Labour and Popular Action Union, a broad coalition of labour and popular organizations. The threats followed accusations by government officials that several trade unions directing the strike that was taking place at the time were being "manipulated" by the armed opposition.

According to reports, in April 1994 the "Jaguar Justiciero" threatened nine of the secretary generals of the *Confederación General de Trabajadores de Guatemala* (CGTG), General Confederation of Guatemalan workers, including **José Pinzón**, **Conrado Alberto Solís**, **Tránsito de Jesús López** and **Carlos Enrique Solís Ramos**, as well as **Feliz Hernández** of the *Federación Nacional de Servidores Públicos* (FENASEP), National Federation of Public Servants.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 7 April 1994 a 10-week strike ended when the government and the *Instancia*

*Unitaria de Trabajadores del Estado (IUTE)*, Unitary Instance of State Workers, and the *Federación Nacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores del Estado de Guatemala (FENASTEG)*, National Federation of Guatemalan State Workers, signed an agreement.

Trade unionists have been long-term targets of abuses in Guatemala, including harassment, torture, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions. Such abuses have sometimes been preceded by anonymous death threats, such as those issued in these cases.

In February 1993 Deputy Secretary of the UTQ, Carlos Gómez was attacked by four armed men whilst travelling from Guatemala City to Quetzaltenango (see UA 52/93, AMR 34/06/93, 1 March 1993).

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Spanish or in your own language:**

- expressing concern that Germán Alfredo de León Parajón was killed in circumstances suggesting an extrajudicial execution;
- expressing concern at the constant death threats received by other members of the UTQ, including Nery Barrios;
- expressing concern at the death threats received by other trade union members, including members of FENASEP, CGTG and FENASTEG;
- urging the government to take steps to guarantee the safety of all members of these trade unions;
- urging an immediate investigation into the killing, that the findings be made public and that those found responsible be brought to justice.

**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 347364 / 527 472**  
**Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU**  
**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente /Dear President**

2) Minister of Interior:

Lic. Danilo Parrinello Blanco  
 Ministro de Gobernación  
 Ministerio de Gobernación  
 Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8  
 Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 515 368 / 518 105**  
**Telexes: 5085 MINGOB**  
**Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**

3) Minister of Defence:

Gral. Mario Enríquez Morales  
 Ministro de Defensa  
 Ministerio de Defensa  
 Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Fax: + 502 2 21906/515252**

**Telexes:** 5361 COMGUA GU  
**Salutation:** Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Human Rights Procurator  
Lic. Jorge García Laguardia  
Procurador de los Derechos Humanos  
12 Avenida 12-72, Zona 1  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Faxes: +502 2 81734**

Head of the Presidential Commission Coordinating the Policies of the Executive  
relating to Human Rights  
Lic. Jorge Gonzalo Cabrera Hurtarte  
Presidente, COPREDEH  
15 Avenida 18-38, Zona 13  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Comisión de Derechos Humanos de  
Guatemala (CDHG)  
Pitagoras 842  
Mexico DF 03020, MEXICO

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 18 July 1994.