

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 34/29/92

Distr: UA/SC

UA 187/92 Threats/Harassment

4 June 1992

GUATEMALA: Marlon Paul ÁLVAREZ JUÁREZ, aged 13  
Hugo Ricardo ÁLVAREZ JUÁREZ, aged 10  
Víctor Hugo ÁLVAREZ (father of the above children)

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Amnesty International is concerned at the reported abduction of Marlon Paul Álvarez Juárez and Hugo Ricardo Álvarez Juárez on 27 May 1992 in Chimaltenango City, Chimaltenango Department. Their father, Víctor Hugo Álvarez, is the leader of the regional branch of the Sindicato de Trabajadores del Instituto Nacional de Electrificación (STINDE), Electrical Workers Union, responsible for negotiations.

According to information received by Amnesty International on 27 May at about 6 pm Marlon Paul Álvarez Juárez and Hugo Ricardo Álvarez Juárez were intercepted by two unidentified men while walking home after school. The two men apparently forced the children into a van, covered their mouths with handkerchiefs and brought them to Antigua Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, approximately 36 kilometres away, and later freed them. The children slept among the market stalls that night and the next day were able to obtain help from local residents to go back home.

In a previous incident, in April 1992, Marlon Paul Álvarez Juárez and Hugo Ricardo Álvarez Juárez were again reportedly followed by unidentified men while returning from school. On that occasion the children were apparently able to elude their assailants by hiding among people in the local market.

Sources in Guatemala believe that these incidents may be related to the trade unionist activities of the children's father, Víctor Hugo Álvarez.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Trade unionists and members of popular movements have been targeted since the government of Jorge Serrano Elías took office in January 1991 in a renewed wave of human rights violations. Amnesty International has learned of a large number of threats, intimidation, abduction and torture as well as possible extrajudicial execution against trade union leaders and members of popular movements in recent months (see Guatemala: Trade Unionists and Political Activists Targeted under the New Government of June 1991, AI Index: AMR 34/28/91). The choice of the victim and the manner in which these abuses have been carried out suggest the involvement of the security forces in the guise of the so-called "death squads". Over twenty trade unionists have been forced to leave the country as a result of direct threats or other human rights violations against themselves and their colleagues and because of the failure of the government to take preventive action.

These latest incidents occurred in the context of a series of strike actions organized by STINDE in late March and early April 1992. On 29 March Perfecto Us was reportedly abducted by heavily armed unidentified men, who threatened to kill him if he persisted

in his trade union activities. He was allegedly beaten and left tied up overnight beside a road. He was later released by local farmers. Since then Amnesty International has received several other reports of intimidation and threats against STINDE members during the period.

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

- expressing concern at the reported abduction of Marlon Paul Álvarez Juárez and Hugo Ricardo Álvarez Juárez;

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- asking for a thorough investigation into this incident, that the results be made public and that those found to be responsible be brought to justice;

- urging that the adequate steps be taken to ensure the safety of Marlon Paul Álvarez Juárez, Hugo Ricardo Álvarez Juárez, their father Víctor Hugo Álvarez and other members of STINDE.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President of the Republic:  
S.E. Jorge Serrano Elías  
Presidente de la República de Guatemala  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

**Telegrams: Presidente Serrano,**  
**Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Telephone: + 502 2 21212, + 502 2 22266**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 537472,**  
**+ 502 2 519702**  
**Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU**

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr.**  
**Presidente / Dear President**

2) Minister of Interior:  
Lic. Fernando Hurtado Prem  
Ministro de Gobernación  
Ministerio de Gobernación  
Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

**Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación,**  
**Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Telephone: + 502 2 21212 ext. 500,**  
**+ 502 2 518105-6 (direct)**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 518105**  
**Telexes: 5085 MINGOB**

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro /**  
**Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) President of the Human Rights  
Commission of Congress:

3) Minister of Defence:  
Gral. José García Samayoa  
Ministro de Defensa  
Ministerio de Defensa  
Palacio Nacional  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

**Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa,**  
**Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Telephone: + 502 2 21212, + 502 2 2226**  
**Telexes: 5361 COMGUA GU**

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro /**  
**Dear Minister**

4) Comission for the Rights of Child:  
Lic. Mario Caracena  
Presidente  
Comisión Pro-Niñez  
Congreso de la República  
7ta Avenida y 9a Calle  
Zona 1, Ciudad de Guatemala  
GUATEMALA

**Telegrams: President Comision Pro-**  
**Ninez, Guatemala, Guatemala**

**Salutation: Sr. Presidente /**  
**Dear President**

Lic. Oliverio García Rodas  
Presidente

Comisión de Derechos Humanos  
Congreso Nacional de la República  
9 Av. 9-48, Zona 1  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

2) Human Rights Procurator:  
Lic. Ramiro de León Carpio  
Procurador de Derechos Humanos  
Avenida Simeón Cañas 10-60 Zona 2,  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

3) Newspaper:  
Diario Prensa Libre  
13 Calle 9-31, 50 Nivel  
Edificio Prensa Libre  
Zona 1, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

4) Electrical workers union:  
Sindicato de Trabajadores del Instituto  
Nacional de Electrificación - STINDE  
Edificio Torre Café  
7a. Avenida 1-20  
10. Nivel, Oficina 10-20  
Zona 4, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Faxes: + 502 2 3450613**

and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Please check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 July 1992.