

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Possible Extrajudicial Execution

6 February 2015

GUATEMALA: Mario José COLINDRES, student leader

Amnesty International is deeply concerned at the apparent extrajudicial execution of Mario José Colindres on 23 May 1993 in the department of Santa Rosa.

Mario José Colindres was a member of the Asociación de Estudiantes Universitarios, Association of University Students, leader of the Asociación de Ciencias Económicas, Association of Economic Science, as well as a member of a theatre group from that faculty. He was also a leader of Jornadas Populares, a group organizing medical assistance and consultancies.

According to information received by Amnesty International, on 23 May Mario José Colindres and other members of Jornadas Populares went to the village of Gabita in the municipality of Pueblo Nuevo, Viñas, Santa Rosa department, in order to carry out a medical consultancy, distribute medicines and present a theatrical work. That evening, on their way home, their van was intercepted by two men in a pick-up truck, who shot dead Mario José Colindres.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is concerned at the recent increase in human rights violations against targeted groups, including trade unionists, student leaders, journalists and those working with non-governmental organizations, particularly those attempting to investigate and protect human rights. These groups have been long-term targets of abuses in Guatemala, including harassment, threats, torture, "disappearances", and extrajudicial executions. Such abuses have sometimes been preceded by acts of intimidation and surveillance, such as in this instance.

The announcement by President Jorge Serrano Elías on the morning of 25 May 1993 that he was partially suspending the Constitution, dissolving Congress and the Supreme Court, as well as reports of the arrest of certain government human rights officials, gives further cause for concern about possible human rights violations against the above mentioned targeted groups. As the measures announced by President Serrano came in the wake of large scale demonstrations by students, it is feared that students may now be even more vulnerable to human rights violations.

For information about other students who have recently received threats in the context of student disturbances please see UA 153/93, AMR 34/26/93, 13 May 1993 and UA 169/93, AMR 34/28/93, 25 May 1993.

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

-expressing grave concern at the apparent extrajudicial execution of Mario José Colindres, a member of the Asociación de Estudiantes Universitarios;

-asking that an investigation be immediately initiated, that the findings be made public and those responsible brought to justice;

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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, 22266

Faxes: (502) (2) 537472, 519702

Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Dear President

2) Minister of Defence:

Gral. José García Samayoa

Ministro de Defensa

Ministerio de Defensa

Palacio Nacional

Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Guatemala, Guatemala

Faxes: (502) (2) 537472

Telexes: 5361 COMGUA GU

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

3) Minister of the Interior:

Lic. Francisco Perdomo

Ministro de Gobernación

Ministerio de Gobernación

Palacio Nacional

Guatemala

GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala

Telephone: (502) (2) 21212 ext. 500; 518105-6 (direct)

Telexes: 5085 MINGOB

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

**Head of the Presidential Coordinating Commission of
the Policies of the Executive relating to Human Rights:**

Sr. Bernardo Neumann, Presidente

Comisión Presidencial Coordinadora

de la Política del Ejecutivo en
materia de Derechos Humanos (COPREDEH)
15 Avenida 18-38, Zona 13
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Association of University Students

Asociación de Estudiantes Universitarios
"Oliverio Castañeda de León" (AEU)
Ciudad Universitaria
Zona 12
Guatemala
GUATEMALA

Newspaper:

Diario "Prensa Libre"

13 Calle 9-31
Zona 1, Guatemala
GUATEMALA

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 7 July 1993.