

PUBLIC

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UA 212/00

Fea.

**GUATEMALA Ileana Alamilla (f), Director of the information agency CERIGUA
Journalists of CERIGUA**

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the director and journalists of the *Centro de Reportes Informativos sobre Guatemala*, (CERIGUA), Centre of Informative Reports on Guatemala, after the latest in a series of death threats.

On 10 July 2000 the agency received a telephone call warning the director Ileana Alamilla "to be careful" (*Decile a Ileana que se cuide*). On 23 June, a woman rang the organisation and said "We know where you all are and we are going to kill you, damn you," (*Sabemos donde están y los vamos a matar, malditos*).

CERIGUA was founded on 8 August 1983, the date of the coup d'état led by General Oscar Mejía Víctores against General Efraín Ríos Montt. Since then, CERIGUA has been reporting on the situation in Guatemala, and has received constant threats. In 1994 the office was raided and robbed and their archives destroyed. Alamilla has been the director of CERIGUA since its foundation and she is a member of several well recognized press associations at national and international level.

In May this year a number of other journalists reportedly received faxed or telephoned death threats and have been followed by unknown people driving cars with tinted windows (see UA 142/00, 30 May 2000, AMR 34/18/00).

Amnesty International fears that these threats and other recent threats against journalists and human rights organisations, as well as the recent killing of a trade union leader & 'disappearance' of an academic, may be part of a strategy to create an atmosphere of insecurity and terror amongst those who campaign for the defence of human rights and freedom of expression in Guatemala. In particular, sources in Guatemala suggest they are intended to intimidate those who have lodged proceedings in national and foreign courts against military officers whom they charge with responsibility for massive human rights violations and/or crimes against humanity during the years of civil conflict.

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

- calling for an immediate and thorough investigation into the reported threatening phone calls to the CERIGUA workers and their director, Ileana Alamilla, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take immediate and effective measures to ensure their safety;
- expressing concern for the safety of all those involved in efforts to protect human rights and freedom of expression, particularly those who have suffered recent threats or intimidation.

APPEALS TO:

Attorney General

Lic. Adolfo González Rodas
Fiscal General de la República
Ministerio Público
6a Avenida 3-11, Zona 4
Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Fax: + 502 221 27 18 (directo)

+ 502 362 7223/3315549

Salutation: Dear Attorney General/ Estimado Señor Fiscal General

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Guillermo Ruiz Wong
6a Avenida 4-64, Zona 4
Ciudad de Guatemala , GUATEMALA
Fax: +502 362 0239/ 362 0237
Salutation: Señor Ministro/Dear Minister

Minister of Defence

Col. Juan de Dios Estrada V.
Antigua Escuela Politecnica
Avenida Reforma 1-45, Zona 10
Ciudad de Guatemala , GUATEMALA
Fax: + 502 360 9007/360 9909
Salutation: Señor Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Newspaper

CERIGUA, 2a calle 1-42, Zona 1
Ciudad de Guatemala. Guatemala
Tel/Faxes: + 502 238 1456/ 221 2521; E-mails: cerigua@guate.net

Newspaper

Diario Prensa Libre, 13 Calle 9-31, Zona 1
Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Faxes: + 502 251 8768; E-mails: mediosselectronicos@prensalibre.com.gt

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 24 August 2000.