

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 34/33/94  
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UA 269/94 Possible extrajudicial execution/Fear for safety 15 July 1994

**GUATEMALA** Killed: Desiderio BACAJOL AQUINO, member of the  
*Sindicato the Trabajadores de la Educación de*  
*Guatemala (STEG)*, Educational Workers Union of Guatemala  
Dr. Jorge FIGUEROA

**Fear for safety:** Other members of STEG

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On 7 July 1994 Desiderio Bacajol Aquino and Dr. Jorge Figueroa, were reportedly kidnapped by unknown individuals in Guatemala City. Two days later both bodies were found in the town of Villa Nueva, in Guatemala department. According to reports, they had been repeatedly stabbed in the chest and strangled with barbed wire.

Desiderio Bacajol Aquino was a leader of the *Asociación Nacional del Magisterio (ANM)*, National Association of Teachers. He was also a member of an *ad hoc* committee, appointed by leaders of the teaching profession, to challenge the Ministry of Education for breach of 1992 accords which compelled the government to grant scaled wage increases.

Since the killings, the headquarters of STEG have been under constant vigilance by unknown men standing outside the offices. Amnesty International fears for the safety of other members of STEG and ANM, and for their families.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Trade unionists have been long-term targets of human rights abuses in Guatemala, including harassment, torture, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions.

On 12 June 1994 Adler Giovanni Wilson was killed, and Isidro Alberto Peña Tecún seriously injured in an attack by seven men. They had both been repeatedly stabbed. Adler Giovanni Wilson was the son of a trade union leader (see UA 246/94, AMR 34/30/94, 24 June 1994). Also, in June 1994 Germán Alfredo de León Parajón, member and founder of the *Unión de Trabajadores de Quetzaltenango (UTQ)*, Workers Union of Quetzaltenango, was abducted by heavily armed men and later found dead (see UA 215/94, AMR 34/27/94, 6 June 1994).

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

- expressing concern at the killing of Desiderio Bacajol Aquino and Dr. Jorge Figueroa;
- expressing concern at the harassment of members of the Educational Workers Union of Guatemala (STEG);
- urging the government to take steps to guarantee the safety of the families of Desiderio Bacajol Aquino and the doctor Jorge Figueroa, and members of the above mentioned trade union;
- urging an immediate investigation into these incidents, 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

Archbishop's Human Rights Office

Oficina de Derechos Humanos del  
 Arzobispado de Guatemala (ODHAG)  
 Apartado Postal 723  
 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 26 August 1994.