

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 289/91 (AMR 34/40/91, 28 August 1991) and follow-up AMR 34/41/91, 30 August 1991 - Death Threats/Intimidation

GUATEMALA

Amílcar MÉNDEZ URÍZAR

Amnesty International is concerned at renewed threats against Amílcar Méndez Urízar, the president of Consejo de Comunidades Étnicas "Runujel Junam" (CERJ), Council of Ethnic Communities "We are all Equal".

On 8 December, at approximately 9.00am, Amílcar Méndez received an anonymous telephone call, in which the caller accused him of belonging to the guerrillas and telling him to remove a guerrilla banner that had been left in the vicinity of Amílcar Méndez' home. Amnesty International is concerned for the continued safety of Amílcar Méndez.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amílcar Méndez returned to Guatemala at the end of November, after having left Guatemala for the United States in early September following a series of threats, (See UA 289/91, AMR 34/40/91 of 28 August 1991 and follow-up AMR 34/41/91 of 30 August 1991). On 30 September 1991, at a meeting held in the United States with human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elías accused Amílcar Méndez and CERJ of having links with the insurgency. In the past public statements by officials characterizing individuals or organizations as having links with guerrillas have been followed by severe reprisals against those cited, in the form of torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in SPANISH if possible:

- expressing concern at renewed threats against CERJ president, Amílcar Méndez;
- asking for guarantees for his safety and for the safety of other CERJ members;
- asking for an immediate and impartial investigation into the origin of the anonymous telephone calls;
- urging that the results of the investigation be made public and that those found to be responsible for the threats be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO

1) President

S.E. Jorge Serrano Elías
Presidente de la República de Guatemala
Palacio Nacional
Guatemala, Guatemala

**Telegrams: Presidente Serrano,
Guatemala, Guatemala**

Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU

**Faxes: + 502 2 537472;
+ 502 2 519702**

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

2) Minister of the Interior

Lic. Fernando Hurtado Prem
Ministro de Gobernación
Despacho Ministerial
Oficina No. 8, Primer Nivel
Palacio Nacional
Guatemala, Guatemala

**Telegrams: Ministro Gobernación,
Guatemala, Guatemala**

Telexes: 5085 MINGOB GU

Faxes: + 502 2 518105

**[Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear
Minister]**

COPIES TO:

President of Human Rights Commission of Congress:

Padre Andrés Girón León
Presidente
Comisión de Derechos Humanos
Congreso Nacional de la República
9 Av. 9-48, Zona 1
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Attorney General:

Señor Acisclo Valladares
Procurador General de la Nación
Procuraduría General de la Nación
18 Calle 10-36
Zona 1, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Señores

Consejo de Comunidades Etnicas "Runujel Junam" (CERJ)
5a Avenida 3-13, Zona 5
Santa Cruz del Quiché
Guatemala

Diario Siglo XXI

7a Avenida 11-79
Edificio Galerias España, 6o piso
Zona 9, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

3) Minister of Defence

Gral. José García Samayoa
Ministro de Defensa
Ministerio de Defensa
Palacio Nacional
Guatemala, Guatemala

**Telegrams: Ministro Defensa Mendoza,
Guatemala, Guatemala**

Telexes: 5361 COMGUA GU

Faxes: + 502 2 537472

**[Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear
Minister]**

4) Human Rights Procurator:

Lic. Ramiro de León Carpio
Procurador de Derechos Humanos
Avenida Simeón Cañas 10-61
Zona 2,
Guatemala, Guatemala

**Telegrams: Procurador de Derechos
Humanos, Guatemala,
Guatemala**

Faxes: + 502 2 512026

**[Salutation: Señor Procurador / Dear
Procurator]**

and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after the 23 January 1992.