

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 261/93 "Disappearance"/Fear for Physical Safety 6 August 1993

**GUATEMALA: Cirilo MACHIC RAGUAY, trade union leader**

Amnesty International is concerned for the physical safety of Cirilo Machic Raguay who "disappeared" on 26 July 1993 while travelling on the road to Escuintla, municipality of Palín.

According to the information received by Amnesty International, Cirilo Machic Raguay is a member of the Executive Committee of the Road Workers Union, Sindicato de Trabajadores de Caminos (STRAC), of the municipality of Palín and a member of the Union of Workers of Escuintla, Unión de Trabajadores de Escuintla (UTE). It is reported that Cirilo Machic Raguay was actively working on the setting up of neighbourhood associations in Palín and that these associations have been critical of the local mayor. According to his wife, before his "disappearance" Cirilo Machic Raguay had been followed and intimidated by heavily armed men in a car with foreign number plates. It is reported that members of other non-governmental organizations in Escuintla have also been subjected to acts of intimidation.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

For many years Amnesty International has been concerned about human rights violations directed 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. They 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.

On 6 June 1993 Ramiro de León Carpio, previously Human Rights Procurator, was voted President by Congress, following his near-unanimous election by Congress to serve out the remaining term of President Jorge Serrano Elías. Ex-President Serrano had been forced from office after trying to seize near-dictatorial powers.

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

- expressing concern at the "disappearance" of Cirilo Machic Raguay, on 26 July 1993 in the road to Escuintla;

- urging the authorities to immediately and thoroughly investigate his "disappearance" and that the results be made public;

- urging that if in detention, Cirilo Machic Raguay be humanely treated and given access to relatives, a lawyer and if necessary a doctor;

- urging that if in detention, he be brought before a judge and either be released or charged with a recognized criminal offence.

**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 537472, + 502 2 519702**  
**Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU**

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

2) Minister of Interior:

Lic. Arnoldo Ortiz Moscoso  
Ministro de Gobernación  
Ministerio de Gobernación  
Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8  
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 518105**  
**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**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 537472**  
**Telexes: 5361 COMGUA GU**

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

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) Human Rights Procurator:

Lic. Jorge García Laguardia  
Procurador de los Derechos Humanos  
12 Avenida 12-72, Zona 1,  
Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Faxes: + 502 2 81734**

2) 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 17 September 1993.