

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 34/065/2002

UA 312/02 Death threats/fear for safety

18 October 2002

**GUATEMALA**

**Carlos Mejía (m), deputy of political party *La Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca* (URNG), The Guatemala Revolutionary Unity and trade union leader  
And his family**

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Carlos Mejía and his family, following a death threat received on 17 October. Carlos Mejía is a representative of the left-wing opposition party *La Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca* (URNG), the Guatemala Revolutionary Unity, and a trade union leader for the *Unidad de Trabajadores Estatales y Sectores Populares* (UTESP), Unity of State Workers and Popular Sectors.

The threat, received in an anonymous letter sent to his workplace, stated *Diputado Mejía, te quedan sólo días, te preparamos ya la emboscada a ti y a tu familia. Despidete, te fusiló el ex guardia del hijo de Arzu, para que te quede claro. Saludos* (Deputy Mejía, you only have a few days left, we are preparing the ambush against you and your family. Say goodbye, you will be shot by Arzu's son's ex guard, be clear about it. Regards). 'Arzu' is thought to be a reference to Alvaro Arzu, former President of Guatemala.

Carlos Mejía has publicly denounced corruption in San Marcos, including the mismanagement of public funds by several of the department's mayors. There are fears that this death threat may be an effort to stop him and others from publicly denouncing alleged corruption by some of the regional authorities in San Marcos.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International is concerned that there is a continuing pattern of threats and intimidation of those who denounce corruption, or who are perceived to be criticizing the Guatemalan authorities. The victims are being threatened and attacked by or with the complicity of the official security forces, in order to silence them.

In December 1996 Alvaro Arzu signed a peace accord with the URNG, the armed opposition movement during Guatemala's long term civil conflict, effectively ending the conflict in Guatemala. In December 1998 the URNG became a political party.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Carlos Mejía and his family, following the death threat made against them on 17 October;
- asking for assurances that the Guatemalan authorities will take all necessary steps to protect Carlos Mejía and his family;
- calling for an immediate and thorough investigation into the threat, for the results to be made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- insisting that those denouncing acts of corruption by regional officials are not hindered and that their human rights are protected.

**APPEALS TO:**

Attorney General

Fiscal General Licenciado

Carlos David De León Argueta

Oficina de la Fiscalía General del Ministerio Público

8a Avenida, 10-67, Tercer Nivel,  
Zona 1, Ciudad de Guatemala,  
Guatemala

**Telegram: Fiscal General, Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala**

**Fax: + 502 221 2718**

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/Señor Fiscal General**

President of the Republic of Guatemala

Lic. Alfonso Portillo Cabrera

Presidente de la República de Guatemala

6a. Avenida AA@ 4-41, Zona 1, Guatemala, Guatemala

**Telegram: Presidente de la República de Guatemala, Guatemala City, Guatemala**

**Fax: + 502 253 0801**

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente**

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Adolfo Reyes Calderón

Ministro de Gobernación

Ministerio de Gobernación

60 Avenida 4-64, Zona 4

Ciudad de Guatemala , Guatemala

**Telegram: Ministro de Gobernación, Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala**

**Fax: + 502 362 0237**

**Salutation: Dear Minister/Señor Ministro**

National Police in San Marcos

Policia Nacional Civil

Comisario Jefe Mario Guadalupe Barrios Zapet

9 Calle 8-66, Zona 1

Ciudad de Guatemala , Guatemala

**Telegram: Comisario, Policia Nacional Civil, Ciudad de Guatemala , Guatemala**

**Fax: + 502 760 2596 (please keep trying)**

**Salutation: Dear Director/Señor Comisario**

#### **COPIES TO:**

Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG)

1a Calle 9-21, Zona 1

Ciudad de Guatemala

GUATEMALA

**Fax: + 502 254 5053/254 5075**

Newspaper

CERIGUA

2a calle 1-42, Zona 1

Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

**+ 502 221 2521**

**E-mail: [cerigua@quate.net](mailto:cerigua@quate.net)**

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 29 November 2002.