EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 296/93 (AMR 34/56/93, 27 August 1993) - Death Penalty

Guatemala: Nicolás GUTIERREZ CRUZ, soldier

Amnesty International has been informed that Guatemalan President Ramiro de León Carpio has granted a presidential pardon to Nicolás Gutiérrez Cruz, who was facing execution following confirmation of his death sentence by the Supreme Court in August 1992.

According to a letter dated 6 October 1993, received from the Guatemalan Embassy in the United Kingdom, Nicolás Gutiérrez's death sentence has been commuted to the maximum imprisonment of 30 years for the killing on 17 January 1992 of four members of indigenous displaced families in Ciudad Peronia, municipality of Villa Nueva, Sololá department.

Amnesty International welcomes President Ramiro de León's decision to commute the death sentence, which it understands he took in the face of considerable domestic opposition.

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

- expressing Amnesty International's gratification at this landmark decision, which will be welcomed throughout the international community as an indication of Guatemala's genuine commitment to respecting internationally recognized standards for the protection of human rights.

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

COPIES OF YOUR LETTERS TO:

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Lic. Arnoldo Ortiz Moscoso Ministro de Gobernación Ministerio de Gobernación Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8 Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

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<u>Head of the Presidential Commission Coordinating the Policies of the Executive relating to Human Rights:</u>

Lic. Jorge Gonzalo Cabrera Hurtarte Presidente COPREDEH 15 Avenida 18-38, Zona 13 Guatemala, GUATEMALA

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and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala accredited to your country.