

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: AMR 34/88/93  
Distr: UA/SC**

**UA 440/93      Death Threats**

**22 December 1993**

**GUATEMALA: Graciela Esther BARRIOS MARROQUIN (f)**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Graciela Esther Barrios Marroquín who has reportedly been threatened with death if she does not give up her work in El Quiché department with *Cáritas*, a Catholic-based international non-governmental organization.

According to information received by Amnesty International, on 19 July 1993, two years after the killing of her husband, Julio Quevedo Quezada, Graciela Esther Barrios received death threats by mail stating that two years before she had been allowed to live but, if she did not give up her work with *Cáritas* within three months and leave she would be made to "disappear". A similar threat was reportedly made in September 1993 stating that she had one month left. Subsequently, on 20 December 1993 she received her "final warning" that she could suffer the same fate as her sister.

On 10 December 1985, during the administration of General Oscar Humberto Mejía, Beatriz Eugenia Barrios Marroquín, sister of Graciela Esther Barrios, was abducted in Guatemala City. Her mutilated body was found shortly afterwards (see UA 346/85, AMR 34/47/85, 11 December 1985; and follow-up AMR 34/48/85, 16 December 1985).

On 15 July 1991, agronomist Julio Quevedo Quezada, husband of Graciela Esther Barrios, was shot dead in Santa Cruz del Quiché by two men.

In both cases, the circumstances of the killings suggest the involvement of the security forces, but both remain unresolved and no serious efforts appear to have been made to bring to justice those responsible.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On 6 June 1993 Ramiro de León Carpio, previously the Human Rights Procurator, was voted President 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 on 25 May 1993. When President de León Carpio came to power there were expectations and hopes in certain quarters that he might be able to improve the human rights situation, due to his previous role as Human Rights Procurator. However, since he assumed office, incidents of threats and intimidation directed at targeted groups, including trade unionists, journalists, and those working with non-governmental organizations have continued.

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

- expressing concern at the threats received by Graciela Esther Barrios Marroquín;
- asking for an immediate investigation into these threats and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- asking for guarantees for the safety of Graciela Esther Barrios Marroquín.

**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**  
**Fax: + 502 2 537472**  
**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 2 February 1993.