

PUBLIC

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Fear for safety/Death threat

15 April 2004

HONDURAS

Sara Saucedo Flores (f)

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Sara Saucedo Flores, whose son, Darwin Roberto Flores was reportedly summarily executed in 2002. She received an anonymous death threat on 12 April and has reportedly being intimidated following her complaints against two officers she alleges are responsible for her son's killing.

On 12 April, Sara Saucedo reportedly received an anonymous letter at her place of work in the city of Tegucigalpa. The letter said "your days are coming to an end, you will end up worse than your son" ("*tus días están contados, te va a pasar peor que a tu hijo*"). On 17 March, as Sara Saucedo was on her way to work, her taxi was reportedly hit by a car containing two people. Sara Saucedo recognized the passenger as the man who had earlier harassed her from another car. Earlier, in January 2004, she reportedly found three bullet casings (*casquillos de bala*) in her locker at her place of work. Sara Saucedo has reported all the threats and acts of intimidation to the Ministry of Security in Honduras.

Sixteen year old Darwin Roberto Saucedo Flores was arrested on 14 February 2002 in neighbourhood of Colonia La Trinidad, in Comayaguela, in the city of Tegucigalpa. He was released two days later and reportedly told his mother that he had been beaten by the police. He had previously been arrested for alleged "illicit association" of gangs and had reportedly been ill-treated whilst in detention on at least two of these occasions.

According to Darwin's mother, in May 2001 a police officer told her that he would arrest her son every time he deemed it necessary and that he would eventually have to kill him. Darwin Roberto Saucedo Flores was last seen alive on the afternoon of 17 February 2002. Sara Saucedo has openly criticized the authorities for failing to carry out a proper investigation into the case which was assigned to the Second Criminal Court (*Juzgado de Letras Segundo de lo Criminal*) for judicial proceedings.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In February 2003, Amnesty International launched the report "*Zero Tolerance ... for Impunity: Extrajudicial Executions of Children and Youths since 1998*", (AI Index: AMR 37/001/2003) highlighting an unprecedented increase in the number of murders and extrajudicial executions of children and youth in Honduras over the past five years. Since the publication of the report Amnesty International has received further complaints of human rights violations against children in Honduras.

The Special Unit for Investigating the Deaths of Minors (*Unidad Especial de Investigación de muertes de menores*), was created in 2002. It has made some progress in investigating a small number of cases but only a few of those responsible for killings have been brought to justice. In many cases prosecutions are hampered because the authorities fail to carry out proper investigations and witnesses are often afraid to come forward for fear of retaliation by gangs, individuals or police involved in the killings.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Sara Saucedo Flores whose sixteen year old son, Darwin Saucedo Flores, was killed in 2002;
- calling for a full, impartial and prompt investigation into threats and acts of intimidation against Sara Saucedo, including the anonymous death threat which was sent on 12 April 2004;
- calling for those responsible to be brought to justice and for Sara Saucedo Flores, to be given protection in accordance with her wishes;

- expressing concern that no one has been brought to justice for the killing of Darwin Roberto Flores in February 2002;
- urging the Honduran Government to implement the comprehensive domestic and international legislation already in place, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in order to bring to justice all connected directly or indirectly with extrajudicial executions of children and youth in Honduras, including law-enforcement officers;
- urging the authorities to take all necessary measures to fully, independently and impartially investigate the extrajudicial executions of children and youth, for the results to be made public and those responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Security

Dr. Oscar Alvarez

Ministero de Seguridad Pública

Ministerio de Seguridad Pública.

Edificio Poujol, 4o piso, Col. Palmira (Blvd. Morazán)

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Telegram: **Ministro de Seguridad, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

Fax: **+ 504 220 4352 (if someone answers say “tono de fax, por favor”)**

Salutation: **Dear Minister/Señor Ministro**

Attorney General

Sr. Ramón Ovidio Navarro Duarte

Fiscal General de la República

Fiscalía General de la República

Colonia Loma del Guijaro

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Telegram: **Fiscal General de la Republica, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

Fax: **+ 504 221 5666**

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

National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights

Comisionado Nacional de Protección de los Derechos Humanos

Ramón Custodio López

Avda. La Paz No. 2444, Contiguo a Galerías La Paz

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Telegram: **Fiscal General de la Republica, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

Fax: **+ 504 232 6894**

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

COPIES TO:

Centro de Prevención Tratamiento y Rehabilitación de las Víctimas de la Tortura y sus Familiares

Colonia La Reforma

Calle Principal Casa 109, contiguo a la Universidad Evangélica

Apdo Postal 53377

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Fax: **504 236 8027 (if someone answers say “tono de fax, por favor”)**

and to diplomatic representatives of Honduras accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 May 2004.