

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 119/99 (AMR 37/05/99, 25 May 1999) - Fear for safety/Possible "disappearance"

HONDURAS José Ofelio López, 45

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Amnesty International has learned that José Ofelio López was found alive on 23 May 1999 in the municipal centre of the Yamaranguila municipality, Intibuca department. He had not been seen since 9 May 1999, when he was taken into custody by members of the *Policía Nacional Civil*, National Civilian Police, and it was feared that he had "disappeared".

José López, a member of the *Comité Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas* (COPIN), Civic Committee of Popular and Indigenous Organizations, had been taken into custody at the main entrance to the Teaching Hospital in the capital, Tegucigalpa, where he was visiting his son, a patient there. José López has testified that the police officers who arrested him beat him in the face, head and hands in a room at the Teaching Hospital. He feared for his life when the police moved him to a detention centre, *Policía Metropolitana N.1 de Tegucigalpa*, the Tegucigalpa Metropolitan Police No.1, because they said: "*Ahora si es de nosotros*", "Now he is ours".

The Minister of Defence and Public Security, Elizabeth Chiuz Sierra, had publicly acknowledged on 21 May that José López had been detained by the National Civilian Police.

**No further action by the UA network is required. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**