

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 37/006/2001

15 June 2001

Further information on UA 126/01 (AMR 37/004/2001, 22 May 2001) - Fear for safety / Death threats

**HONDURAS** Pedro MARCHETTI, priest and human rights defender  
New name: Santos FIGUEROA, human rights defender

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Hired gunmen are still pursuing the Jesuit priest Pedro Marchetti, and are now also trying to find another human rights defender, Santos Figueroa.

The gunmen have allegedly been hired by a powerful local politician, who has apparently offered 500,000 *lempira* (approximately US\$50,000) for Marchetti's head. On 3 and 4 June the gunmen reportedly went to Marchetti's church and Figueroa's office asking for them. The human rights organisation *Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras* (COFADEH), Committee of Relatives of the "Disappeared" in Honduras reported this at a 5 June press conference.

Marchetti has been helping peasant farmers defend their land against the claims of major landowners. He and Figueroa have both been campaigning for justice in the 1997 murder of environmental activist Carlos Escaleras. Local landowners are believed to have been behind the killing of Escaleras, whose activities threatened their interests, but no one has been arrested or charged.

Both men are members of the National Coordination against Impunity, *Coordinadora Nacional Contra la Impunidad* (CONACIM), and work closely with COFADEH.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or in your own language:**

- expressing deep concern at reports that gunmen have been hired to kill human rights defenders Pedro Marchetti and Santos Figueroa in Aguán;
- expressing concern that the authorities have not taken action to protect them, despite repeated appeals;
- asking the authorities to take urgent steps to protect Marchetti and Figueroa, in line with the men's own wishes;
- calling for an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the reported attempts to kill Pedro Marchetti and Santos Figueroa, for the results to be made public, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- reminding the government of its obligation to support human rights defenders in their work for the protection and promotion of the respect for human rights, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, of 9 December 1998.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of the Republic  
S.E. Carlos Roberto Flores Facussé  
Presidente de la República de Honduras  
Casa Presidencial  
Boulevard Juan Pablo Segundo  
Palacio José Cecilio del Valle  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Telegram: Presidente, Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
**Fax: + 504 234 1484**  
**E-mail: law\_bureau@hotmail.com**

**Salutation: Dear President/Señor Presidente**

Attorney General

Dr. Roy Edmundo Medina  
Fiscal General de la República  
Fiscalía General, Ministerio Público  
Edificio Castillo Poujol, 4 Avd,  
Colonia Palmira, Boulevard Morazán  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Telegram:Fiscal General, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

**Fax:+ 504 239 3698 (this number may be hard to obtain)**

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

Minister of Security

Dr. Gautama Fonseca  
Ministro de Seguridad  
Ministerio de Seguridad  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

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

**Fax: + 504 238 0238**

**Salutation:Dear Minister/Señor Ministro**

**COPIES TO:**

National Human Rights NGO

Coordinadora Nacional Contra la Impunidad  
Apartado Postal 1243  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights

Dr Leo Valladares Lanza  
Comisionado Nacional de Protección de los Derechos Humanos  
Avda. La Paz No. 2444  
Contiguo a Galerías La Paz  
Tegucigalpa, HONDURAS

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 July 2001.