

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 37/008/2001

19 July 2001

Further information on UA 169/01 (AMR 37/007/2001, 6 July 2001) - fear for safety/death threats/unlawful killing

HONDURASKilled: Carlos Roberto Flores

Community leaders: José de la Cruz Flores, José Braulio Zúñiga, Orlando Najera, Javier Padilla, Orlando Santos, Javier Cardona, Isidro Zúñiga Guillermo Espinal, Ramón Zúñiga, Issac Chirinos, Gilberto Flores, Enemecio Veliz, Rafael de Jesús Ulloa

Other members of communities in the municipality of Gualaco, Olancho department

Family of Carlos Roberto Flores: Rosa Elvira Flores (f), Martín de Jesus Solís (his parents) Tereza Martínez Avila (f) (his wife) and their two children, aged 3 and 5

New names: Demonstrators protesting at Carlos Roberto Flores' killing

Police in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, have reportedly used excessive force against demonstrators protesting at the killing of Carlos Roberto Flores, leaving at least 30 people injured. Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the some 300 demonstrators, who continue their vigil outside the National Congress building.

On 4 July a group of people from Gualaco began a vigil outside the National Congress building in Tegucigalpa to protest against Carlos Flores' killing, and the government's lack of response regarding the activities of Energisa, the power company whose security guards reportedly killed Carlos Flores. People of all ages and genders took part in the vigil, including Carlos Flores' wife Teresa López Hernández, who is around seven months pregnant.

In the early hours of 18 July [00.35] a contingent of around 50 police officers, which grew to over 100, arrived at the vigil. The police tried to disperse the crowd. Some police officers reportedly showed restraint in their actions. However, the majority became increasingly violent, and beat demonstrators with their batons. Dilcia, a four-year-old girl, was in tears as she told a witness that she had been hit in the abdomen by a policeman. Teresa López Hernández was pushed about and had to be hospitalized, as she appeared to be going into premature labour.

Later in the day, just after midday, the police made a further attempt to disperse the demonstrators using tear gas, water cannons and batons. The skirmish left around 30 demonstrators injured. Many demonstrators were taken into custody, some of them injured. Local NGOs managed to secure the release of some of the injured demonstrators, and brought them to the hospital.

A large group of indigenous people who were on their way to support the demonstrators in Tegucigalpa were prevented by police forces from reaching the capital. Later, after some of them managed to join the demonstrators, they also became victims of police violence.

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

- expressing concern that the police have reportedly used excessive force against demonstrators protesting at the killing of Carlos Flores, and urging that they are not further ill-treated;
- calling for the police to respect the right of people to demonstrate peacefully, as enshrined in international standards and the Honduran constitution;
- urging the authorities to conduct a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into the killing of Carlos Flores and reported threats against communities in the municipality of Gualaco and their leaders, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- calling for anyone detained to be immediately released, unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging that the police action against peaceful demonstrators is fully investigated.

**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 30 August 2001.