

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 37/012/2004

04 November 2004

Further Information on UA 141/03 (AMR 37/008/2003, 20 May 2003) - Fear for safety/Harassment

**HONDURAS** **Staff of *Centro de Prevención, Rehabilitación y Tratamiento de las Víctimas de Tortura y sus Familiares* (CPTRT), Centre for the Prevention, Rehabilitation and Treatment of Victims of Torture and their Relatives**

---

Death threats left during a break-in at the offices of *Centro de Prevención, Tratamiento y Rehabilitación de las Víctimas de Tortura y sus familiares* (CPTRT), Centre for the Prevention, Rehabilitation and Treatment of Victims of Torture, on 26 October have renewed fears for the safety of members of the human rights organization.

The CPTRT offices, which are based in the capital, Tegucigalpa, were broken into during the night of 26 October. Intruders went through documents and files, and wrote threats on the walls of the office of Alba Mejía, the organization's Deputy Director. In the office of Dr. Juan Almdares, the Director, books were arranged in the form of a cross, a symbol considered in Honduras to be a death threat.

This is the third time the CPTRT offices have been targeted. During a break-in on 12 May 2003, files and office equipment were destroyed and staff members received coded death threats. Similarly during a raid in December 2003 a substantial number of files were stolen. Neither of these attacks has been properly investigated, nor have staff members been offered protection.

The attacks are thought to be motivated by the human rights work that the CPTRT undertakes. The organization has frequently criticized the government on issues such as the involvement of the police in extrajudicial executions of children, and the complicity of security officers in the death of 69 inmates at El Porvenir prison in April 2003 and 106 inmates at the San Pedro Sula prison in May 2004. The organization has recently supported members of the Public Ministry who have been dismissed from their posts simply for raising their concerns about internal corruption.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Honduran human rights defenders are frequently attacked threatened and intimidated because of their legitimate activities. The authorities rarely investigate these cases effectively, thus encouraging those responsible to continue in the knowledge that their impunity is all but guaranteed.

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

- expressing concern at the break-in and implicit threats carried out at the offices of the CPTRT in Tegucigalpa;
- urging an immediate, full and impartial investigation into the break-in and for the results of the investigation to be made public;
- calling on the authorities to take immediate steps to guarantee the safety of the organization's staff members.

**APPEALS TO: (It may be difficult to send faxes to Honduras)**

President of the Honduras Republic

Lic. Ricardo Maduro  
Presidente de la República de Honduras  
Casa Presidencial  
Boulevard Juan Pablo Segundo  
Palacio José Cecilio del Valle  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Fax: +504 235 7700**

**Salutation: Dear President/ Señor Presidente**

Minister of Security

Dr. Oscar Alvarez  
Ministro de Seguridad  
Ministerio de Seguridad Pública  
Edificio Poujol, 4o piso  
Col. Palmira (Blvd. Morazán)  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Fax: +504 220 4479**

**Salutation: Dear Minister/ Estimado Señor Ministro**

**COPIES TO:**

Centre for the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (CPTRT)

Barrio San Rafael segunda calle N. 1513  
contiguo Edificio Apartamentos San Rafael  
A.P. 5377

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Fax: +504 236 8027**

**(if someone answers ask for the fax “me da tono de fax por favor”)**

National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights

Dr. Ramón Custodio López  
Comisionado Nacional de Protección  
de los Derechos Humanos (CONADEH)  
Avda. La Paz No. 2444  
Contiguo a Galerías La Paz  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Fax: +504 232 6894**

**E-mail: central@conadeh.hn/ custodiolopez@conadeh.hn**

**Salutation: Dear Commissioner/ Señor Comisionado**

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 16 December 2004