

AI Index: NWS 11/58/93  
Distr: SC/PO

No. of words: 914

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**TO: PRESS OFFICERS**

**FROM: PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS**

**DATE: 11 JUNE 1993**

**WEEKLY UPDATE SERVICE 58/93**

Contained in this weekly update is an external item on Guatemala.

**NEWS INITIATIVES**

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES**

**UN WORLD CONFERENCE-RELATED NEWS INITIATIVES ONLY THROUGHOUT JUNE**

**\*\*WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS\*\***

The second and third ENRs for the World Conference: Challenge to Governments, (Ref: 1838) and AI Activities Compilation, (Ref: 1840) are ready. Please order copies and refer journalists for copies from: Dubbs Copying House, giving the correct video reference number (as above) on Tel: +44 71 629 0055 or Fax: +44 71 287 8796.

Amnesty International's press office in Vienna will be based at AI's tent outside the Austria Centre and will be open for 24 hours each day. Telephone: +43 1 219 3572/3573. Fax/E-Mail: +43 1 219 3574. These will be installed today and we will send out any changes to you this afternoon.

AI's press team will be staying at Pension Dr Geissler, Postgasse 14, 1010 Vienna. Telephone: +43 1 533 2803.

The strategy team in Vienna will report developments to sections via the IS press office to section press officers. Can press officers ensure that this information is circulated to the relevant people in their section.

General enquiries from press officers should go to Paula and James at the IS Press Office, on Tel: +44 71 413 5562/5810.

**\*\*Annual Report - 0006 hrs gmt, 8 July\*\***

(New Information)

Please note: The Annual Report ENR will be sent out to you today, so should be with you next week. The news release will be finalized today, and will be faxed/e-mailed/telexed to you as usual. Worldwide Summary, Regional Summaries, Regional Updates and news release have all been sent to you by e-mail/fax/telex and hard copies of the formatted version have been swift-aired to you.

**Indonesia (Aceh) - 28 July**

Document and news release to go with action on massive numbers of political killings.

**TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES**

**Saudi Arabia - 1 July**

**A weekly update item is being written to go with the document: Saudi Arabia: An Upsurge in Public Executions, AI Index: MDE 23/04/93. The document and weekly update item will be embargoed for 1 July and will be sent out to selected international media by the IS Press Office. Please note that the document has been sent out in the weekly mailing.**

**2. AMR 34/WU 04/93 EXTERNAL**  
**10 June 1993**

**GUATEMALA: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEETS NEW PRESIDENT**

On 9 June Amnesty International delegates in Guatemala delivered a letter addressed to the new president, Ramiro de León Carpio, formerly the Human Rights Procurator. On 6 June he had been voted in as president almost unanimously by Congress, following the withdrawal of the only other candidate. Amnesty International delegates met President León de Carpio on the day of his appointment, conveying the organization's concerns and expressing their desire to have further personal contact with him in the very near future. The president was amenable to this and said that he would make himself available.

The text of the letter is as follows:

Your appointment as President of the Republic raises real hope that the respect and protection of human rights will be an integral part of your government's programme.

As you know, Amnesty International has strived alongside other non-governmental organizations for many years to stop the very grave human rights violations committed by the security forces and the abuses committed by armed opposition groups.

The present situation of the country requires, in our opinion, the urgent implementation of certain measures that would demonstrate the firm will of your government to improve the protection of human rights of the Guatemalan people. Such measures are the following:

- The government should publicly declare that the protection of human rights of all sectors of Guatemalan society will be the fundamental policy of the state, in accordance with the constitution.
- To the extent that the protection and promotion of human rights is a task of all the Guatemalans, the non-governmental human rights organizations, as well as other sectors of civilian society committed to their defence, should be consulted about the institutional reforms necessary for a lasting improvement in the protection of human rights.
- The government should declare in an unequivocal way that there will be no impunity for crimes against human rights in the future, and that the new government will take the necessary measures to try to resolve the significant legacy of violations committed by past regimes. The right to truth and justice of the victims, their relatives and society as a whole, should be reaffirmed without ambiguity.
- The government should ensure effective court jurisdiction over all cases of human rights violations, whether these are committed by civilians or by the military while on duty or not.
- The government should take measures both for the protection of fundamental rights of vulnerable people, such as street children and the indigenous peoples, people living in the shanty towns, the displaced and the repatriated.
- The government should ensure that, in the context of the peace process, the protection and defence of human rights constitutes a cornerstone in whatever agreement is reached with the armed opposition.

Amnesty International is aware of the formidable difficulties that confront your government at present. However, I can guarantee Your Excellency that all those committed to the defence of human rights in the international community will appreciate and support your action and the efforts of the Guatemalan people in this regard, as has been shown during the suspension of constitutionality on 25 May until its reestablishment which allowed for your accession to the presidency.