

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 94/93 Fear of extrajudicial execution

1 April 1993

GUATEMALA: Efraín Bámaca Velásquez ("Comandante Everardo"), Anastacia López Calvo ("Karina"), Martín Pérez Cabrera, Antonio Lorenzo, César Augusto Cabrera Hernández, Aníbal Cabrera López, Carlos López, Reginaldo de Jesús Pérez Llana, ("Gara") Estrada and 29 others identified only by pseudonyms

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the above-mentioned people whom it fears may be in danger of extrajudicial execution. They are at risk because two combatants of the armed opposition group, the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca, (URNG), Guatemala National Revolutionary Unity, have alleged that they are being held in secret detention at a number of Guatemalan military installations.

The two combatants, Santiago Cabrera López and Jaime Adalberto Agustín Recinos, claim to have recently escaped from unacknowledged detention by the Guatemalan military. Following their alleged escape, they have made detailed allegations that while in secret detention at a number of military installations throughout Guatemala, they saw or heard of other unacknowledged prisoners, including both non-combatants and *hor de combat* combatants (that is, combatants detained after being wounded or after they had already laid down their arms). According to their testimonies, both they and the other unacknowledged prisoners were subjected to torture and death threats to themselves and their families, to force them to collaborate with the military in identifying and apprehending suspected members or supporters of the armed opposition. Now that the testimonies of the two former combatants have been made public, it is feared that the unacknowledged prisoners whom they named in their statements may be in danger of extrajudicial execution.

In response to writs of *habeas corpus* presented recently to the Guatemalan courts by the Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Guatemala (CDHG), Guatemalan Human Rights Commission, on behalf of those named in the testimonies, the Guatemalan Minister of Defense, General José Domingo García Samayoa, stated that three of those named, Anastacia López Calvo, Reginaldo de Pérez Llana and Martín Pérez Cabrera were voluntarily cooperating with the military. Particularly in the case of Anastacia López, the declarants state that apparent cooperation with the military has only come about because of army pressure, including death threats, maltreatment and torture.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

President Jorge Serrano Elías came to power in January 1991. On a number of occasions both during his administration and that of President Jorge Serrano Elías, and previously, individuals accused of being members or supporters of the armed opposition initially reported as "disappeared" were later presented to the media by the military to make "confessions" of their own involvement in the armed opposition or to make denunciations about alleged opposition activities or supporters. On some occasions, those giving testimonies had allegedly turned themselves over to the military of their own free will. Others whose abductions were reported were later released, on condition that they were to work with the army or act as informants. Amnesty International learned of at least four such cases in 1992; three eventually left the country. However, this has been the first occasion on

which Amnesty International has received testimonies from escapees which have contained detailed information about others allegedly still in unacknowledged army custody.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Spanish, English or in your own language:

-asking that efforts be made immediately to determine whether any of those named in the two men's testimonies are in official custody, and if so, that their detentions be acknowledged, and steps taken to protect their physical integrity;
-asking that they be charged with a recognizably criminal offence or released;
-asking that inquiries be initiated immediately into the torture and maltreatment allegations made in the two testimonies, and that any officials found responsible be brought to justice.

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APPEALS TO

1) President of the Republic:

S.E. Jorge Serrano Elías
Presidente de la República
de Guatemala
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala,
Guatemala

Telephone: + 502 2 21212 / + 502 2
22266

Faxes: + 502 2 537472 / + 502 2
519702

Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU

**Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear
President**

2) Minister of the Interior:

Lic. Francisco Perdomo
Ministro de Gobernación
Despacho Ministerial
Oficina No. 8, Primer Nivel
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala,
Guatemala

Telephone: + 502 2 21212, ext 500 / +
502 2 518105-6 (direct)

Faxes: + 502 2 518105

Telexes: 5085 MINGOB GU

**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear
Minister**

3) Minister of Defence:

Gral. José García Samayoa
Jefe del Estado Mayor de Defensa Nacional
Ministerio de Defensa
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala,
Guatemala

Telephone: + 502 2 21212, ext 2226

Telexes: 5361 COMGUA GU

**Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear
Minister**

4) Commander of Chimaltenango Military Base
(also covers Sacatepéquez)

Cnel. Marco Antonio González
Taracerna
Comandante , Base Militar No. 3
Chimaltenango, Chimaltenango
Guatemala

Telephone: + 502 9 391018

**Salutation: Señor Comandante/Dear
Commander**

[This is one of the military installations where Adalberto Augustín Recinos claims to have been held. A number of the unacknowledged prisoners whom the two declarants claim to have seen in custody were also allegedly held at this base.]

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President of the Supreme Court:

Lic. Juan José Rodil Peralta
Presidente de la Corte
Suprema de Justicia
Centro Cívico, 21a Calle y 7a Avenida
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Head of the Presidential Coordinating
Commission of the Policies of the

Executive relating to Human Rights

Sr. Bernardo Neumann
Comisión Presidencial Coordinadora
de la Política del Ejecutivo
en materia de Derechos Humanos
(COPREDEH)

15 Avenida 18-38, Zona 13
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Human Rights Procurator:

Lic. Ramiro de León Carpio
Procurador de Derechos Humanos
Avenida Simeón Cañas 10-61
Zona 2,
Guatemala, Guatemala

Newspaper:

Diario Siglo XXI
7a Avenida 11-79
Edificio Galerias España, 6o piso
Zona 9, Guatemala, Guatemala

and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala accredited to your country .

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 May 1993.