

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 34/14/94  
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UA 105/94      Attempted Extrajudicial Execution/Ill-treatment 15 March 1994

GUATEMALA      Luis Aroldo VÁSQUEZ, 18  
                 Luis Antonio ROLDÁN IZEPPI, 17  
                 Francisco TZIAC SOC, 18  
                 Myriam Eugenia FUENTES (f), 14      - all street youths

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Amnesty International is concerned by reports of two recent incidents of police violence against street youths in Guatemala City. On 14 March 1994, Luis Aroldo Vásquez was shot and wounded, and on 3 March the three other street youths named above were reportedly ill-treated. Both incidents reportedly involved uniformed members of the National Police.

According to reports, on 14 March at about 3.00am, three street youths, including Luis Aroldo Vásquez, were walking in Zone 1 of Guatemala City, when they were approached by three uniformed members of the National Police on foot patrol.

The policemen threatened the youths and demanded money. One of the policemen, who was known to the street youths, hit Luis Aroldo Vásquez in the face with his pistol. The youths ran away and the same policeman then shot and wounded Luis Aroldo Vásquez. When the other youths stopped to help their friend, the policemen fled. Luis Aroldo Vásquez was later admitted to hospital where tests showed the bullet had entered his left collar bone and lodged on the left side of his chest. He is reportedly having an operation to remove the bullet on 15 March.

In the earlier incident on 3 March at about 10.00pm, Luis Antonio Roldán, Francisco Tziac Soc and Myriam Eugenia Fuentes became involved in an argument with another unnamed street youth in the *Parque Central* (Central Park) of Guatemala City. A uniformed member of the National Police saw the incident and reportedly began beating Luis Roldán, with what the youths described as a *pedazo de manguera* (piece of hose pipe). The youths also reported that the policeman took off his identification badge before beating and then handcuffing Luis Roldán. According to the other street youths, another uniformed policeman on a motorcycle arrived and began beating the handcuffed Luis Roldán. Myriam Eugenia Fuentes tried to stop the beating, but the first policeman began hitting her with his truncheon, which broke during the blows, causing severe bruising to her elbow. Luis Roldán was subsequently admitted to hospital suffering from a cut to his left ear.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since the death of 13-year-old street child Nahamán Carmona López on 14 March 1990 after he was attacked and beaten by four policemen, Covenant House, a refuge for street children in Guatemala has been denouncing human rights violations against street children and those working with them, including beatings, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial executions, reportedly carried out by official security force agents. Documentation on many of these cases can be found in Amnesty International's reports Guatemala extrajudicial executions and Human Rights Violations against Street Children (AMR 34/37/90, August 1990), and Guatemala: Children in Fear (AMR 34/24/92, May 1992). More recently most reported abuses have involved excessive use of force and death threats (see UA 74/94, AMR 34/11/94, 23 February 1994 which describes threats against the lives of Axel Mejía, a street educator with Covenant House and Coralia Pérez from a "Mothers and Babies" residence run by Covenant House).

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

- expressing concern at the apparent excessive use of force in the shooting and wounding of street youth Luis Aroldo Vásquez, reportedly carried out by a uniformed member of the National Police;
- asking for guarantees for the safety of Luis Aroldo Vásquez;
- asking that all security force personnel be reminded of the relevant provisions of the United Nations (UN) Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials which specifies in Article 3 that law enforcement officials may only use force when strictly necessary and to the extent required for the performance of their duty and that the use of fire arms is to be considered an extreme measure;
- asking for a full investigation to determine the perpetrators of this shooting, and if it is found that they did employ excessive force, that they be brought to justice;
- expressing concern at the reported ill-treatment of street youths Luis Roldán and Myriam Eugenia Fuentes;
- asking that this incident also be investigated and those found responsible be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President of the Republic:

S.E. Ramiro de León Carpio  
 Presidente de la República de Guatemala  
 Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Presidente de León Carpio, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 347 364**  
**Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU**  
**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente /Dear President**

2) Minister of Defence:

Gral. Mario Enríquez Morales  
 Ministro de Defensa  
 Ministerio de Defensa  
 Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA  
**Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 21906**  
**Telexes: 5361 COMGUA GU**  
**Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister**

3) Director of National Police

Lic. Mario René Cifuentes Echeverría  
 Director General de la Policía Nacional  
 6 Avenida 13-71, Zona 1  
 Guatemala, Guatemala  
**Telegrams: Director General de la Policia Nacional, Guatemala, Guatemala**  
**Telephone: + 502 2 516268, 519429**  
**Faxes: + 502 2 519382**  
**Salutation: Sr. Director General / Dear Director General**

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human Rights Procurator:

Lic. Jorge García Laguardia  
 Procurador de los Derechos Humanos  
 12 Avenida 12-72, Zona 1,

Guatemala, GUATEMALA

**Faxes: + 502 2 81734**

Head of the Presidential Commission Coordinating the Policies of the Executive relating to Human Rights:

Lic. Jorge Gonzalo Cabrera Hurtarte

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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 25 April 1994.