

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 34/15/91

Distr: UA/SC

2 May 1991

Further information on UA 499/90 (AMR 34/78/90, 13 December 1990) - Attempted Abduction and (new concern) Threats

GUATEMALA:Axel MEJÍA, Street educator

Amnesty International is concerned at the recent series of threats received by Axel Mejía, a street educator with Covenant House (Casa Alianza), an organization which works with street children in Guatemala and has been in the forefront of efforts to investigate recent police abuses against children, including harassment, torture, "disappearance" and killings.

At approximately 1.00pm on Tuesday, 30 April 1991, a telephone call was made to the Casa Alianza office by a male who did not identify himself and who stated "que le dijera a Axel Mejía que tiene 24 horas para salir de Casa Alianza" ("tell Axel Mejía that he has 24 hours in which to leave Casa Alianza").

Some 15 minutes later the same person called again saying "queremos repetir el mensaje para Axel Mejía que tiene 24 horas para salir de Casa Alianza" ("we want to repeat the message to Axel Mejía that he has 24 hours in which to leave Casa Alianza"). A third telephone call was made to Axel Mejía's mother's home on Sunday 28 April. Again a male who did not identify himself said "que Axel Mejía tiene 72 horas para salir de Casa Alianza" (Axel Mejía has 72 hours to leave Casa Alianza). Casa Alianza reported that the first two calls were made their new offices in Zone 1 of Guatemala City, to a telephone number which has not as yet been made public, and that only those persons with direct access to the telecommunications network, would have known the new telephone number.

Axel Mejía has been the principal witness to an incident which occurred on 7 November 1990, when thirteen members of the police unit Sistema de Protección Cívica (SIPROCI), System of Civil Protection, and of the security forces (four National Policemen, five members of the Treasury Police and four Military Police), beat three street children in front of a refuge run by Casa Alianza. Legal proceedings have been initiated against one of the Treasury Police, identified as the principal aggressor. Axel Mejía gave evidence in the criminal proceedings against the accused agents two weeks ago, and it is believed these threats may be directly related to his evidence on these proceedings.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the latest in a series of threats made against Axel Mejía, apparently related to his evidence in legal proceedings against members of the security forces;

- asking that these threats be investigated, and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- calling for protection for Axel Mejía and all those working to protect street children.

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APPEALS TO:

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

Telegrams: Presidente Serrano, Guatemala, Guatemala

Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU

Faxes: +502 2 537472; +502 2 519702

Señor Acisclo Valladares
 Procurador General de la Nación
 Procuraduría General de la Nación
 18 Calle 10-36
 Zona 1, Guatemala
 Guatemala

Telegrams: Procurador General, Guatemala, Guatemala

Lic. Fernando Hurtado Prem
 Ministro de Gobernación
 Despacho Ministerial
 Oficina No. 8, Primer Nivel
 Palacio Nacional
 Guatemala, Guatemala

Telegrams: Ministro Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala

Telexes: 5085 MINGOB GU

Faxes: + 502 2 518105

Cnel. Julio Enrique Paiz Bolaños
 Director General de la Policía Nacional
 6 Avenida 13-71
 Zona 1, Guatemala
 Guatemala

Telegrams: Director Policia, Guatemala, Guatemala

COPIES TO:

- Casa Alianza, Apartado 400, Guatemala, GUATEMALA
- Sra. Marilys Barrientos de Estrada, Directora, Sección Familiar y de Menores, Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos, Avenida Simeón Cañas 10-60, Zona 2, Guatemala, GUATEMALA
- Lic. Héctor Raúl Orellana Alarcón, Jefe de la Sección de Menores, Procuraduría General de la Nación, Ministerio Público, 18 Calle 10-36, Zona 1, Guatemala, GUATEMALA
- Diario Siglo XXI, 7a Avenida 11-79, Edificio Galerias España, 6o piso, Zona 9, Guatemala, Guatemala

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 13 June 1991.