

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear for safety

19 June 1995

GUATEMALA

María del Carmen Aguilar

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of María del Carmen Aguilar after receiving reports that unidentified gunmen fired shots at her home in the early hours of 8 June 1995. One of her children was reportedly injured by fragments of the shots. María del Carmen Aguilar represents the women's sector on the executive committee of the *Asamblea de la Sociedad Civil* (ASC), Assembly of Civil Society. The Assembly groups together a number of social groups, including trade unions, religious groups, non-governmental organizations and others and has served as a discussion forum regarding issues which these groups would like to see included in Guatemala's ongoing peace negotiations. Amnesty International believes María del Carmen Aguilar may have been targeted because of her representation on the committee of the ASC, and is asking for guarantees for her safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since former Human Rights Procurator, Ramiro de León Carpio, took over the presidency of Guatemala in May 1993, human rights violations including extrajudicial executions, "disappearances," arbitrary arrests, torture, and an increasing incidence of harassment and death threats have continued. This is despite the government's purported commitment to respect and promote human rights and to take firm action against impunity, as affirmed in a human rights accord agreed by the government and the armed opposition in March 1994. Victims have included human rights monitors, women and children, indigenous leaders and activists, journalists, students, trade unionists, jurists and politicians. Those responsible remain largely unpunished and there has been no evidence of any genuine efforts to investigate the vast majority of violations that occurred under previous administrations.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of María del Carmen Aguilar, following an attack on her home, reportedly because of her work with the Assembly of Civil Society;
- asking that immediate steps be made to guarantee her safety and that of her family;
- urging an immediate and impartial investigation into the incident and that 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,

Faxes: + 502 2 537472/515667

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente /Dear President

2) Minister of Interior

Lic. Carlos Enrique Reynoso

Ministro de Gobernación,
Ministerio de Gobernación
Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala
**Faxes: + 502 2 515 368 / 518 105 ["me da tono de fax,
por favor"]**
Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

3) 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 537472
Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Fiscal General
Lic. Ramses Cuestas Gómez
Fiscal General de la Nación
Ministerio Público
18 Calle 10-36, Zona 1
Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Salutation: Lic. Cuestas / Dear Dr. Cuestas
Faxes: + 502 2 537554
+ 502 2 530482

Human Rights Procurator
Lic. Jorge García Laguardia
Procurador de los Derechos Humanos
12 Avenida 12-72
Zona 1, Guatemala
GUATEMALA

Human Rights Organization
Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas
de Guatemala (CONAVIGUA)
8a. Avenida 2-29
Zona 1, 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 7 August 1995.