News Service 129/98

AI INDEX: AMR 34/24/98 3 JULY 1998

## MEDIA ADVISORY

## GUATEMALA MURDERED BISHOP'S FINDINGS TO BE PRESENTED IN LONDON

For the first time in the UK, two leading Guatemalan human rights defenders will present the findings of their historic report, *Guatemala: Never Again*, on the atrocities committed during Guatemala's "dirty war".

Bishop Gerardo Flores, representing the Guatemalan Bishops Conference, and Edgar Gutiérrez, from the Archdiocesan Human Rights Office, one of the report's principal authors, will be presenting the report in the UK as part of a European tour intended to mobilize public opinion against the widespread impunity from which those responsible for the atrocities of Guatemala's dirty war have benefitted.

The report, compiled over a three year period, was prepared by the Human Rights Office of the Archbishopric of Guatemala (ODHA) and will be discussed at a public meeting organized by the Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR) and co-sponsored by Amnesty International, Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD), Christian Aid and Oxfam. The meeting will take place on:

Tuesday 7 of July at 7:00 pm at Church House Conference Centre, Great Smith Street Entrance, London SW1

Nearest underground: St. James' Park or Westminster

The report was presented to the Guatemalan public in April this year by Bishop Juan José Gerardi Conedera, Director of ODHA. Monsignor Gerardi was a major force behind the "Never Again" report, and a long-term human rights defender. Two days later, he was brutally murdered at his home by as yet unknown assailants.

ODHA representatives are currently visiting several European countries in a tour organised by a number of NGOs, including Amnesty International. With this visit to Europe, ODHA aims to stimulate continued international pressure for the murder of Bishop Gerardi be clarified and those responsible brought to justice.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

For further information please contact Tony Samphier at CIIR on 0171 3540883 or Tracy Ulltveit-Moe at Amnesty International on 0171 413 5690. To arrange an interview, contact Tony Samphier at CIIR on 0171 3540883 or the AI Press Office on 0171 413 5566/5562.