

UA 130/02

Intimidat.

**GUATEMALA Members of Unidad de Izquierda Democrática (UNID)
Members of Desarrollo Integral Auténtico (DIA)**

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of members of two leftist opposition parties *Desarrollo Integral Auténtico* (DIA), Authentic Development Party, and *Unidad de Izquierda Democrática* (UNID), Unified Democratic Left Party, following recent break-ins at their respective central offices.

On the night of 18 April the central offices of *DIA* were broken into, and a printer and fax stolen. According to *DIA* officials, there were signs that the thieves tried to make off with the computer, but apparently found it too heavy to remove.

Twenty-four hours later, a raid was carried out on the offices of UNID, which had joined the main opposition coalition, *Alianza Nueva Nación* (ANN), Alliance for a New Nation, on 25 April. A hard disc and files containing important information about the party were stolen, including a map showing where members of UNID and other political groups were based. A substantial sum of money was left in the drawer of a desk, suggesting that the raid was not a common crime.

Both incidents have been interpreted by the human rights community and party members, as a warning to opposition party leaders to stop their work. Local human rights groups have also expressed fears that leaders of these and other opposition political groups may meet the same fate as Jorge Rosal Zea, leader of *Partido Patriota* (PP), Patriotic Party, who was gunned down in front of his office on 16 March by four unidentified individuals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Human rights groups and politicians believe that the murder of Jorge Rosal Zea was intended to intimidate other *PP* members. Just before the murder, the party had been responsible, along with *El Movimiento Cívico* - a coalition of civil society groups - for organizing a demonstration asking for the resignations of the Guatemalan President Alfonso Portillo and Vice-president Juan Francisco Reyes López.

ANN has a history of opposition to the government. In the 1999 general elections it won nine of the 113 seats of the Legislative Assembly (Congreso Legislativo). In August 2000, the offices of ANN were raided. Computers and party records were stolen and offensive messages left behind.

In recent months there has been a marked increase in threats made against both members of emerging opposition parties and against the human rights community in Guatemala (See UA 72/02, AMR 34/016/2002, 11 March and UA 89/02, AMR 34/019/2002, 22 March 2002).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- pressing the authorities to guarantee the safety of all members of political parties and parties in formation, especially UNID and DIA party members, who may be in danger following the raid on their parties' offices; - asking the authorities to immediately investigate the break-in at UNID's and DIA's offices and bring those responsible to justice

- calling on the authorities to make public the findings of any investigations into the murder of Jorge Rosal Zea;
- urging the authorities to state publicly that raids on the offices of political parties or civil society organizations will not be tolerated.

APPEALS TO:

Vice-president of the Republic of Guatemala

Lic. Juan Francisco Reyes López

6^a Avenida 'A' 4-18

Zona 1

Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Vicepresidente de la República, Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

Faxes: + 502 239 0090

Salutation: Dear vice-president/Señor vicepresidente

Minister of the Interior

Eduardo Arévalo Lacs

Ministro de Gobernación

Ministerio de Gobernación

6^a Avenida 4-64, Zona 4

Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Ciudad de Guatemala , Guatemala

Faxes: + 502 362 0237

Salutation: Dear Minister/Señor Ministro

Director General of the National Civil Police

Comisario Luis Arturo Paniagua Galicia

6^a Avenida 13-71, Zona 1

Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Comisario Luis Arturo Paniagua Galicia, Ciudad de Guatemala , Guatemala

Faxes: + 502 251 9382

Salutation: Dear Director/Señor Director

COPIES TO:

UNID

15 Avenida 5-43

Zona 1

Ciudad de Guatemala

GUATEMALA

Email: corriente@intelnet.net.gt

DIA

12 Calle A 2-18

Zona 1

Ciudad de Guatemala

GUATEMALA

Cerigua

2a calle 1-42, Zona 1

Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

Faxes: + 502 221 2521 (if a voice answers, say "Por favor, tono de fax")

Faxes: Cerigua@guate.net

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 June 2002