

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 34/30/94
Distr: UA/SC

UA 246/94 Possible extrajudicial execution / Fear for safety 24 June 1994

GUATEMALA Adler Giovanni WILSON
Isidro Alberto PEÑA TECÚN, uncle of Adler Giovanni Wilson

Sonia Victoria WILSON (f), trade union leader)
Francisco Roberto PEÑA) members of the
Ricardo WILSON) family of Adler
Noé PEÑA) Giovanni Wilson
Juana PEÑA (f))

Diego LUX TUN)
Blanca SANTOS (f)) Executive Committee
Luis Arturo YANTUCHE MORALES) members of trade
Manuel CORTEZ PÉREZ) union
Florencia de Jesús TELMÁN GARCÍA (f))
Noé FIGUEROA)

On 12 June 1994 Adler Giovanni Wilson was killed, and Isidro Alberto Peña Tecún seriously injured, in an attack by seven men in civilian dress who Amnesty International believes may be linked to, or acting with the acquiescence of, the security forces. The former died after being stabbed in the abdomen and the latter was stabbed three times in the head. The attack, which took place in the municipality of Barberena, Santa Rosa Department, does not appear to have been motivated by robbery as Adler Giovanni Wilson's wallet was found on him. In view of the attack and recent death threats and harassment, Amnesty International fears for the safety of members of Adler Giovanni Wilson's family and of the trade unionists named above.

Adler Giovanni Wilson was the son of Sonia Victoria Wilson, Secretary General of the *Sindicato de Trabajadores de Mantenimiento y demás Dependencias del Ministerio de Finanzas Públicas* (Union of Workers of Maintenance and other Sections of the Ministry of Public Finance). According to reports, in February 1994 Sonia Wilson's husband and son began to receive telephoned death threats, apparently related to Sonia Wilson's work with the union. The family then decided to move from Guatemala City to Barberena. Around the same time, members of the Executive Committee of the same union (named above) were reportedly followed by men in vehicles with tinted windows and number plates, similar to those of official vehicles.

During a strike held in March 1994 by workers of the Union of Workers of Maintenance and other Sections of the Ministry of Public Finance, two union members were arrested, one of whom had his leg broken in the process. In addition, six uniformed policemen attempted to arrest Sonia Victoria Wilson, but this was prevented by the intervention of other workers. There were apparently no arrest warrants for any of these people. Adler Giovanni Wilson received new death threats during the strike.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 8 April 1994 a 10-week strike ended when the government and the *Instancia Unitaria de Trabajadores del Estado* (IUTE), Unitary Instance of State Workers, and the *Federación Nacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores del Estado de Guatemala* (FENASTEG), National Federation of Guatemalan State Workers, signed an agreement. The trade union of which Sonia Wilson is the Secretary General

is a member of FENASTEG.

Trade unionists have been long-term targets of abuses in Guatemala, including harassment, torture, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions. Such abuses have sometimes been preceded by anonymous death threats, such as those issued in these cases.

In June 1994 Germán Alfredo de León Parajón, member and founder of the *Unión de Trabajadores de Quetzaltenango* (UTQ), Workers Union of Quetzaltenango, was abducted by heavily armed men and later found dead (see UA 215/94, AMR 34/27/94, 6 June 1994).

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

- expressing concern at the killing of Adler Giovanni Wilson by armed men, in circumstances which suggest he may have been extrajudicially executed, and the attempted killing of Isidro Alberto Peña Tecún;
- expressing concern at the harassment of members of the Union of Workers of Maintenance and other Sections of the Ministry of Public Finance;
- urging the government to take steps to guarantee the safety of Sonia Victoria Wilson, her family and members, including the Executive Committee, of the above mentioned trade union;
- urging an immediate investigation into these incidents, that the findings be made public 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, Guatemala
Faxes: + 502 2 347364 / 527 472
Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU
Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente /Dear President

2) Minister of Interior:

Lic. Danilo Parrinello Blanco
 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
Telexes: 5085 MINGOB
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
Fax: + 502 2 21906/515252
Telexes: 5361 COMGUA GU
Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

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
Presidente
COPREDEH
15 Avenida 18-38, Zona 13
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Archbishop's Human Rights Office

Oficina de Derechos Humanos del
Arzobispado de Guatemala (ODHAG)
Apartado Postal 723
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 4 August 1994.