

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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PRIORITY

Further information on UA 242/91 (AMR 34/30/91, 16 July 1991) - Death Threats/Harassment against Trade Unionists

GUATEMALA: Rosendo DE LEÓN DUBÓN (please note full name)

Mauricio RAXCACÓ HENRÍQUEZ (please note change of name)

Following the telephone threats and harassment against these two trade unionists reported in April and June 1991, Amnesty International has now learned of the attempted abduction on 19 August 1991 in Guatemala City of Mauricio Raxcacó Henríquez and of further threats against Rosendo de León Dubón. Both men are workers at the Tipografía Nacional (State Printing Press). Rosendo de León is Secretary General of the Sindicato de la Tipografía Nacional (the State Printing Press trade union) and Mauricio Raxcacó is a member of the union's Consejo Consultativo (Consultative Council). Mauricio Raxcacó is also Secretary of Education, Art and Culture as well as a member of the Executive Committee of the Federación Nacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores del Estado de Guatemala (FENASTEG), National Federation of Guatemalan State Workers' Unions. The State Printing Press union is affiliated to FENASTEG.

According to a statement made later by Mauricio Raxcacó to a local human rights organization, on 19 August at approximately 8.30pm, he left his home in Zone 1 of Guatemala City, which has been under constant surveillance for over two weeks. He was intercepted by four men in plain clothes, driving a white vehicle with polarized windows. One of the men held Mauricio Raxcacó by the collar and another, who was armed, began beating him. They threatened him and said that the two trade unionists had taken no notice of previous telephone warnings and that they were becoming a nuisance. His assailants told Mauricio Raxcacó to give them the address of the Secretary General of the Printing Press union, Rosendo de León Dubón. Mauricio Raxcacó managed to break free as the man holding him tried to force him into the vehicle, and escaped. He sought refuge at the Guatemalan Red Cross office in Guatemala City.

On 20 August, plain-clothes members of the National Police arrived at the offices of the Guatemalan Red Cross to interview Mauricio Raxcacó, following the denunciation of the attempted abduction. Later the same day uniformed members of the National Police arrived and again wanted to question Mauricio Raxcacó. They locked him in a room while they interrogated him. Mauricio Raxcacó subsequently left the offices of the Guatemalan Red Cross and has gone into hiding. Amnesty International continues to be seriously concerned for his safety and the safety of Rosendo de León Dubón.

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

- expressing concern at the attempted abduction of trade unionist Mauricio Raxcacó;
- asking that the attempted abduction be investigated and that those found

responsible be brought to justice;

- asking that immediate and adequate steps be taken to protect the lives and physical integrity of Mauricio Raxcacó and Rosendo de León.

page 2 of FU 242/91

APPEALS TO:

S.E. Jorge Serrano Elías **Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente**
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

Lic. Fernando Hurtado Prem **Señor Ministro**
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

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

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

COPIES TO:

Lic. Ramiro de León Carpio
Procurador de Derechos Humanos
Avenida Simeón Cañas 10-61
Zona 2,
Guatemala, Guatemala

Padre Andrés Girón León
Presidente
Comisión de Derechos Humanos
Congreso Nacional de la República
9 Av. 9-48, Zona 1

Guatemala, Guatemala

Señores
FENASTEG
Hogar Rafael Ayau
16 Calle 3-61
Zona 1, Guatemala
GUATEMALA

Diario Siglo XXI
7a Avenida 11-79
Edificio Galerias España, 6o piso
Zona 9, Guatemala, Guatemala

and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 October 1991.