

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 34/39/94
Distr: UA/SC

9 September 1994

UA 334/94 Fear for Safety / Extrajudicial Execution

GUATEMALA

Victor Manuel ALEX, aged 16
Sergio Miguel CHAVEZ, ("El Chupado", nickname)

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Victor Manuel Alex and other street children, following the killing of street child Sergio Miguel Chávez.

According to reports, on 7 September 1994 Victor Alex and Sergio Chávez entered a large market in zone 1 of Guatemala City. They were apparently spotted trying to steal some sunglasses by two men who ran after them. One of the men, who was reportedly a uniformed member of the municipal police (*Policía Municipal*), grabbed Sergio Chávez, put a gun to his head and fired it instantly, apparently "blowing his brains out" ("*con cerebro de fuera*"). Sergio Chávez was taken to the San Juan de Dios hospital where he died about one hour later.

Following the shooting, Victor Alex was briefly detained by the police who reportedly took him inside a room and threatened that the same thing would happen to him if said anything about what happened.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has repeatedly received information about human rights violations carried out by the security forces against street children in Guatemala. For further information please see Guatemala: extrajudicial executions and human rights violations against street children, AI Index: AMR 34/37/90, August 1990 and Guatemala: Children in fear, AI Index: AMR 34/24/92, May 1992, as well as Urgent Actions 105/94, AMR 34/14/94, 15 March 1994 and follow-up AMR 34/36/94, 16 August 1994, UA 273/93, AMR 34/54/93, 13 August 1993, UA 120/93, AMR 34/18/93, 21 April 1993.

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

- expressing concern about the killing of street child Sergio Miguel Chávez on 7 September 1994, reportedly by a member of the municipal police in circumstances suggesting an extrajudicial execution;
- asking for guarantees for the safety of Victor Manuel Alex;
- asking for a full investigation into the killing, that the findings be made public and that those 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) Director General of National Police

Lic. Salvador Figueroa

Director General de la Policía Nacional

6 Avenida 13-71, Zona 1

Guatemala, Guatemala

Telegrams: Director General de la Policia Nacional, Guatemala, Guatemala

Telephone: + 502 2 516268, 519429

Faxes: + 502 2 519382

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Human Rights Procurator:

Lic. Jorge García Laguardia

Procurador de los Derechos Humanos

12 Av. 12-72, Zona 1

Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Fax: +502 2 81734

2) Group working for street children:

Casa Alianza

Apartado 1734

2050 San Pedro

COSTA RICA

Fax: (506) 224 56 89

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 October 20 1994.