

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 34/57/93

Distr: UA/SC

2 September 1993

Further information on UA 36/93 (AMR 34/03/93, 12 February 1993) - and follow-ups: AMR 34/05/93 of 16 February 1993 and AMR 34/23/93 of 6 May 1993 - Threats/Harassment

**GUATEMALA: Staff of the Asociación para el Avance de las Ciencias Sociales en Guatemala (AVANCSO), Association for the Advancement of Social Sciences in Guatemala
Helen MACK CHANG**

Amnesty International has received information of further acts of intimidation against staff of the Asociación para el Avance de las Ciencias Sociales en Guatemala (AVANCSO), Association for the Advancement of Social Sciences in Guatemala.

According to reports, on 31 August 1993 a man entered the AVANCSO offices and made his way around the whole building without announcing his presence. When staff became aware of his presence they followed him out of the building and asked him what he was doing there, but he was unable to give a satisfactory reply.

On the following morning, María Elena Dávila de Torres, the AVANCSO office cleaner, was intercepted by the same man as she was opening the office. The man reportedly beat her in the stomach and said "Tell that bitch Helen Mack that we have her under control and that we know the building well" ("*Dígale a la Cabrona de Helen Mack que la tenemos controlada y ya conocemos bien el edificio*"). María Elena Dávila de Torres had been attacked previously in February 1993 (see UA 36/93, AMR 34/03/93, 12 February 1993).

AVANCSO was founded by anthropologist and socialist, Myrna Mack Chang, who was stabbed to death in September 1990. Since the end of 1992 members of the organization, including Myrna Mack's sister, Helen Mack Chang, have been subjected to acts of intimidation, related, in Helen Mack's case, to her unrelenting efforts to bring to justice those responsible for her sister's murder. Others involved in the case have also been subjected to human rights violations: the police investigator, for example, was killed, and other investigators and witnesses have been forced into exile. In April 1993 the Appeal Court ratified the sentence of 30 years' imprisonment against army sergeant, Noel de Jesús Beteta, for the murder of Myrna Mack. It is to be noted that the case is presently at a crucial phase as it is awaiting the result of a legal petition before the Supreme Court, asking that proceedings against those who ordered the killing be left open.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and

airmail letters either in Spanish, English or your own language

- expressing concern at the latest act of intimidation against staff at the AVANCSO office;

- asking for an immediate investigation into these incidents and that those found responsible be brought to justice;

- asking for guarantees for the safety of all staff of AVANCSO;

- asking that, in addition to the conviction of Noel de Jesús Beteta, steps be taken to bring to justice those responsible for ordering the killing of Myrna Mack.

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 537472, + 502 2 519702

Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente /Dear President

2) Minister of Defence:

Gral. Mario Enríquez Morales

Ministro de Defensa

Ministerio de Defensa

Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Guatemala, Guatemala

Faxes: + 502 2 537472

Telexes: 5361 COMGUA GU

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

3) President of the Supreme Court

Lic. María Luisa Beltranena de Padilla

Presidente de la Corte Suprema de Justicia

Centro Cívico

21a Calle y 7a Avenida

Zona 1, Guatemala

GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Señora Presidente de la Corte Suprema, Guatemala, Guatemala

Faxes: + 502 2 512 686

Salutation: Sra. Presidente / Dear President

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

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 14 October 1993.