

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Threats/Harassment/Fear for Safety

7 September 1993

GUATEMALA: Olga Ruano CRUZ DE GARCIA, female, aged 42

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Olga Ruano Cruz de García, a social promoter and President of the Comité de Vecinos, Neighbourhood Committee, of the neighbourhood of la Colonia El Limón, situated on the outskirts of Guatemala City, since 1990, who has recently been subjected to threats and harassment.

According to reports, on 30 August 1993 Olga Ruano Cruz returned from the Comité de Reconstrucción Nacional, the National Reconstruction Committee, which she had visited in order to solve a problem in la Colonia El Limón. At the entrance to the neighbourhood of la Colonia El Limón she met María Teresa Granja, secretary of the Neighbourhood Committee. As they walked through the main street of la Colonia, they were apparently approached by a pick-up truck without number plates from which two armed men wearing dark glasses and caps got out and who proceeded to push María Teresa Granja and then took away Olga Ruano Cruz. About four hours later, Olga Ruano Cruz reappeared on the Atlántico road, a few kilometres from the municipal headquarters of Teculután, department of Zacapa (some 100 kilometres north-east of Guatemala City), where she managed to get help. Her abductors had apparently threatened her with death if she did not suspend her activities with the Neighbourhood Committee.

Olga Ruano Cruz had reportedly received threats prior to this and in January 1993 submitted a denunciation to the judicial authorities, who initiated proceedings before the Juzgado de Primera Instancia de Instrucción, a lower examining court, which as yet has not made any progress in investigations to determine those responsible.

According to reports, the Neighbourhood Committee of la Colonia El Limón has recently formed, together with other groups, the Federación de Colonias y Asentamientos, Federation of Working Class settlements and Neighbourhoods (dealing with Guatemala City and its outskirts) which participates in the Multisectorial Social, a body that brings together various organizations of the civil movement.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 6 June 1993 Ramiro de León Carpio, previously the Human Rights Procurator, was voted president by Congress to serve out the remaining term of President Jorge Serrano Elías. Ex-president Serrano had been forced from office after trying to seize near-dictatorial powers on 25 May 1993.

For many years Amnesty International has been concerned about human rights

violations directed against targeted groups, including trade unionists, student leaders, journalists and those working with non-governmental organizations, particularly those attempting to investigate and protect human rights, who have been long-term targets of abuses in Guatemala, including harassment, threats, torture, "disappearances", and extrajudicial executions. Such abuses have sometimes been preceded by acts of intimidation and surveillance.

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

- expressing concern at the abduction and threats received by Olga Ruano Cruz de García;
- asking that these incidents be immediately investigated and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- asking for guarantees for the security of Olga Ruano Cruz de García.

**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 Interior:

Lic. Arnoldo Ortiz Moscoso

Ministro de Gobernación

Ministerio de Gobernación

Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8

Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

**Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala**

**Faxes: + 502 2 518105**

**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**

**Faxes: + 502 2 537472**

**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 19 October 1993.