

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of "disappearance"/Fear for Safety

10 September 1993

GUATEMALA: Salvador AGUIRRE CORADO, aged 40

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Salvador Aguirre Corado, an agricultural worker, who was reportedly detained on 7 September 1993 and who has not been seen since.

According to information available to Amnesty International, on the morning of 7 September Salvador Aguirre was returning to his home in the neighbourhood of San Cristóbal, municipality of Mixco, Guatemala department, when he was intercepted by four men, three of whom were wearing military uniform. He was pushed into his own car by two of the uniformed men and driven away, followed by two other vehicles, one of which was a white 1993 model Mazda and the other a Toyota pick-up truck with tinted windows. According to witnesses, the Mazda was later left near a Shell petrol station on the outskirts of the neighbourhood.

The home of Salvador Aguirre was apparently watched all that night and the following morning by men in a car with tinted windows.

Previously, in 1992, Salvador Aguirre suffered an attack while near the military zone of Jutiapa, in which his arms were broken and his face was wounded by a bullet. It is not known who the perpetrators were.

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, English or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the apparent "disappearance" of Salvador Aguirre Corado after his reported detention by four men, three of whom were wearing military uniform;

- asking that if detained he be promptly brought before a competent court or else released;

- asking that if detained, his safety is guaranteed, and that he is granted access to a lawyer, a doctor and relatives;

- asking for guarantees for the security of the family of Salvador Aguirre Corado.

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
Fax: + 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 22 October 1993.