

EXTERNAL (for general distribution) AI Index: AMR 34/68/90
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Further information on UA 404/90 (AMR 34/57/90, 9 October 1990) -
"Disappearance"

GUATEMALA: Sebastián VELÁSQUEZ MEJÍA

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On 6 October 1990 Sebastián Velásquez Mejía, a 37-year-old peasant from Chunimá, El Quiché Department, was abducted in circumstances suggesting the involvement of the security forces. Sebastián Velásquez Mejía was a delegate of the "Consejo de Comunidades Etnicas Runujel Junam", Council of Ethnic Communities "We are all Equal", and a member of the Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo por el Aparecimiento con Vida de Nuestros Familiares (GAM), Mutual Support Group for the Appearance of Our Relatives Alive.

Amnesty International has learned that his body was found in Guatemala City a few days after his abduction. The body was buried in La Verbena cemetery in Guatemala City. His wife, who had fled Chunimá after her husband's abduction, identified him some time later from photographs taken from the body, and has requested an exhumation. A post-mortem examination reported that he died of blows to the thorax and abdomen. According to GAM members who have seen the photographs, it appears that Sebastián Velásquez Mejía was subjected to torture.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the abduction and subsequent apparent extrajudicial execution of Sebastián Velásquez Mejía;
- urging the authorities to open a full, independent inquiry into his killing and that, in the context of such an investigation and as a proof of their commitment to establishing the precise circumstances of Sebastián Velásquez Mejía's death, they grant the family's request for an exhumation;
- urging that those found responsible for his killing be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

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Palacio Nacional
Guatemala, Guatemala

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Telex: 5331 CAPRES GU

Telegrams: Presidente Cerezo, Guatemala, Guatemala

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Telegrams: Comandante Base Militar Santa Cruz, Quiche, Guatemala

Lic. Mario roberto Yllescas Aguirre
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COPIES TO:

Señores
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13 Calle 9-31, 50 Nivel
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Lic. Ramiro de León Carpio

Procurador de Derechos Humanos
Avenida Simeón Cañas 10-61
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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 19 December 1990.