

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 373/93 "Disappearance"

25 October 1993

GUATEMALA Candelaria NOHEMI MARROQUIN, student, aged 17

Amnesty International is concerned about the "disappearance" of 17-year-old student, Candelaria Nohemi Marroquín.

According to reports, on the evening of 15 October 1993 Candelaria Nohemi Marroquín was travelling with her mother and her five brothers and sisters between the hamlets of El Chicón and Conhuaco in the village of Jumaytepeque, Municipality of Nueva Santa Rosa, department of Santa Rosa. On the way from El Chicón to Conhuaco the family were approached by three men dressed in olive-coloured uniforms, which scared them so much that they ran away. The men apparently continued to follow them and managed to capture Candelaria Nohemi, while the other family members hid in a nearby ditch. A few moments later, the family reportedly heard gunshots. Some two hours later they returned to the spot where they had last seen Candelaria Nohemi, only to find blood stains.

The following day the family searched the area and asked some residents whether they had seen Candelaria Nohemi. On 21 October the case was denounced to the Supreme Court of Justice and the Judge of the Peace from Nueva Santa Rosa. Enquiries were also made at the military barracks, the police station and the hospital in the department of Santa Rosa. The whereabouts of Candelaria Nohemi remain unknown.

On 22 October the other family members left Guatemala as they feared that their lives were in danger.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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.

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.

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 Candelaria Nohemi Marroquín after her reported detention by three men wearing military uniform;
- asking that if detained she be promptly brought before a competent court or else released;

- asking that if detained, her safety is guaranteed, and that she is granted access to a lawyer, a doctor and relatives.

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 6 December 1993.