

UA 390/93 "Disappearance"

4 November 1993

GUATEMALA: Tomás LÓPEZ CHITIC, 34

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Tomás López Chitic, a member of the Coordinadora Nacional Indígena y Campesina (CONIC), National Indigenous and Peasant Coordinator, following his "disappearance" after reported detention in Patulul, department of Suchitepéquez.

On 18 October an armed man in civilian clothes reportedly came to the home of Tomás López and forced him outside. According to witnesses, he was then beaten and forced into a vehicle waiting outside which was occupied by two armed men. He was driven away and has not been seen since.

In spite of enquiries made by relatives at the local barracks and detention centres, the reported detention of Tomás López has not been acknowledged by the authorities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For many years, those suspected of opposition to the government of the day have been targets of abuses including threats, harassment, 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. When President de León Carpio came to power there were expectations and hopes in certain quarters that he might be able to improve the human rights situation, due to his previous role as Human Rights Procurator. However, in recent weeks there has been a spate of incidents of threats and intimidation directed at targeted groups, including trade unionists, journalists, and those working with non-governmental organizations, particularly those attempting to investigate and protect human rights.

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

- expressing concern about the "disappearance" of Tomás López Chitic, following his reported detention on 18 October;
- urging the authorities to clarify his legal situation;
- asking that if held in detention he be humanely treated and given access to an independent lawyer and a doctor;
- urging that he either be released or brought promptly before a competent court.

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:

Head of the Presidential Commission Coordinating the Policies
 of the Executive relating to Human Rights:

COPREDEH
 15 Avenida 18-38, Zona 13
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Human Rights Procurator

Lic. Jorge García Laguardia
 Procurador de los Derechos Humanos
 12 Avenida 12-72
 Zona 1, Guatemala
 GUATEMALA

Comisión de Derechos Humanos de
 Guatemala (CDHG)

Pitagoras 842
 Mexico DF 03020
 MEXICO

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 16 December 1993.