

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 37/09/94  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 426/94

Death threats / Fear for safety

2 December 1994

**HONDURAS Andrés PAVÓN MURILLO- Regional President of the Honduras Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CODEH), Comité para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos en Honduras**

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Andrés Pavón Murillo, regional president of the Honduran human rights organization, CODEH, in the municipality of La Ceiba, Department of Atlántida, following reports that he was subjected to death threats on 20 November 1994 by an unidentified gunman.

The threats follow efforts of CODEH to clarify the "disappearance" on 17 September 1994 of Orlando Jiménez Antúnez (see AI Index AMR 37/08/94 "Honduras: Possible "Disappearance") and his subsequent killing. Reports indicate that the house of Andrés Pavón Murillo has been under surveillance by unidentified people since CODEH's denunciation of the "disappearance".

On 20 November, Andrés Pavón Murillo and his wife were reportedly returning from a local trip when a gunman reportedly threatened him and followed them in a vehicle without number plates, stopping opposite their home. Andrés Pavón Murillo sought refuge in a shop nearby until the vehicle left the area. According to witnesses, the gunman had been waiting for Andrés Pavón Murillo for several hours. The threat has been denounced to the local police, the relevant judge and the Public Ministry. Amnesty International is unaware of any investigation into the incident. The identity of the gunman is unknown, but Amnesty International believes that he may be connected with the security services of the Honduran Armed Forces.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

As a regional coordinator of CODEH, Andrés Pavón Murillo had been investigating the "disappearance" of the bar manager Orlando Jiménez Antúnez who was abducted from his home in the village of Elixir, Department of Colón, on 17 September 1994 by a group of unidentified assailants. In the investigation that followed by a Public Ministry Attorney and CODEH, Andrés Pavón Murillo publicly denounced the participation of at least four members of the police and four civilians in the "disappearance" and killing of Orlando Jiménez Antúnez. The body of Orlando Jiménez Antúnez was found buried in an unmarked grave on 17 November. He had been shot and his forearms severed from the body.

On taking office in January 1994, the government of President Carlos Roberto Reina gave a commitment to investigating human rights violations in the recent past, so as to prevent their recurrence. In particular, initial efforts were made to clarify the fate of over 100 victims of "disappearances" in previous years. However, these have not resulted in the prosecution of those responsible. Meanwhile, human rights activists campaigning for these cases to be clarified have repeatedly received death threats, believed to be issued by sectors of the military linked to abuses.

Amnesty International has repeatedly appealed to the government of President Carlos Roberto Reina to implement effective measures to put an end to human rights violations in the country.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail**

**letters either in Spanish, English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Andrés Pavón Murillo, following death threats apparently related to his work as a human rights worker;
- urging the authorities to take measures to ensure his safety and that of other human rights workers in Honduras;
- requesting information on the progress of any investigation initiated into the threat to Andrés Pavón Murillo;
- asking for assurances that all official complaints regarding death threats will be given the close attention they deserve, so that the physical security of every Honduran citizen is guaranteed.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President of the Republic

S.E. Carlos Roberto Reina  
 Presidente de la República de Honduras  
 Casa Presidencial, 6<sup>a</sup> Avenida, 1<sup>a</sup> Calle  
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Telegrams: Presidente Reina, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

**Faxes: +504 37 85 21 and 34 19 66**

**Telexes: 1129 MMRR HO/1429 HO**

**Salutation: Sr. Presidente/Dear Mr. President**

2) Attorney General

Lic. Edmundo Orellana Mercado  
 Fiscal General  
 Ministerio Público  
 Colonia Palmira, Edificio Castillo Poujol  
 contiguo del Colegio de Enfermeras  
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras

**Telegrams: Fiscal General, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

**Fax: +504 39 36 97 and 39 36 98**

**Salutation: Sr. Fiscal General/Dear General Attorney**

3) Governor Department of Atlántida

Sr. Adalberto Girón Romero  
 Gobernador Político para el Depto. de Atlántida  
 Gobernación Política  
 La Ceiba, Atlántida, Honduras

**Telegrams: Gobernador Político, La Ceiba, Atlántida, Honduras**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Human Rights Commissioner

Lic. Leo Valladares Lanza  
 Comisionado Nacional para la Protección de los Derechos Humanos  
 Edificio Las Cumbres, Quinto piso  
 Ave. Cervantes, Apdo. 2986  
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Human Rights Organization

CODEH  
 Apartado Postal 3189, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

and to diplomatic representatives of HONDURAS accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 January 1995.