

14 November 2001

Further information on UA 169/01 (AMR 37/007/2001, 6 July 2001 ) and follow-up (AMR 37/010/2001; 2 August) - Fear for safety/death threats/unlawful killing

**HONDURAS**

Community leaders: Rafael de Jesús Ulloa (m), mayor of Gualaco, and all seven municipal councillors, including Macario Echevarría (m), Luis Rufino García (m), Manuel Enterio Santos (m), Ramón Orlando Escobar (m) and Angela María Rivera (f).

New names: José Andrés Tamayo (m), priest; Osmin Flores (m), priest. Mayk Alfredo Ramos (m), Angel Orlando Murillo (m) and Dennis Murillo (m), community leaders.

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of those named above, who have reportedly been threatened and harassed as they defend their communities and environment in the department of Olancho.

On 30 October, a police officer reportedly pointed his gun at Father José Andrés Tamayo in a menacing way, as he took part in a public demonstration calling for the protection of the environment. Father Tamayo has been actively campaigning with local communities in northern Olancho, to bring an end to the indiscriminate felling of trees in the area by logging companies. He has also been under threat from local criminals who have reportedly been offered money to kill him. This is a similar situation to that of another priest and human rights defender, Father Peter Marchetti, who in May was threatened as a result of his work with local peasant farmers (See UA 126/01, AMR 37/004/2001, 22 May 2001).

As part of a continuing pattern of intimidation, community leaders Mayk Alfredo Ramos, Angel Orlando Murillo and Dennis Murrillo have reportedly received death threats in connection with their opposition to the felling of trees in northern Olancho by logging companies.

Rafael de Jesús Ulloa, mayor of Gualaco, has received further threats against his life. Furthermore, during October his daughter was twice followed by a car with darkened windows and no number plates. The car was being driven by a man who is reportedly employed by the company building a dam, which local communities are opposed to. In October, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights issued precautionary measures in favour of Rafael Ulloa and others, which was later extended to include his daughter. The authorities have reportedly ignored these measures.

Communities in Olancho department have been living in fear of reprisals for their opposition to the construction of a hydro-electric dam in the area. This fear has intensified following the murder of Carlos Roberto Flores in June. He was reportedly killed by security guards hired by Energisa, the firm building the dam. Although five of the security guards were charged and warrants issued for their arrest, they still remain at large.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern about the situation of grave insecurity in the municipality of Gualaco;
- asking the authorities to investigate the continued threats against Mayor of Gualaco, Rafael de Jesús Ulloa and his daughter;
- calling for the implementation of precautionary measures on their behalf, as issued by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights;
- asking the authorities to investigate the threats against Father José Andrés Tamayo and Father Osmin Flores, as well as Community leaders: Mayk Alfredo Ramos, Angel Orlando Murillo and Dennis Murillo;

- requesting information on whether a full, impartial and prompt investigation has been carried out into the death of Carlos Flores, if the results have been made public, and whether those who planned, ordered and carried out this crime have been brought to justice;
- asking the Minister of Security whether he has carried out the arrest warrants against Energisa security guards charged with the killing of Carlos Roberto Flores.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of the Republic  
 S.E. Carlos Roberto Flores Facussé  
 Presidente de la República de Honduras  
 Casa Presidencial  
 Boulevard Juan Pablo Segundo  
 Palacio José Cecilio del Valle  
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
 Telegram: Presidente, Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
**Fax: + 504 234 1484**  
**Telegram: Presidente de la República, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**  
**Salutation: Dear President/Señor Presidente**

Attorney General  
 Dr. Roy Edmundo Medina  
 Fiscal General de la República  
 Fiscalía General, Ministerio Público  
 Edificio Castillo Poujol, 4 Avd,  
 Colonia Palmira, Boulevard Morazán  
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
**Telegram: Fiscal General, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**  
**Fax: + 504 221 5667**  
**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/Señor Fiscal General**

Minister of Security  
 Dr. Gautama Fonseca  
 Ministro de Seguridad  
 Ministerio de Seguridad  
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
**Telegram: Ministro Seguridad, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**  
**Fax: + 504 239 6892**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister/Señor Ministro**

**COPIES TO:**

National Human Rights NGO  
 Coordinadora Nacional Contra la Impunidad  
 Apartado Postal 1243  
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights  
 Dr Leo Valladares Lanza  
 Comisionado Nacional de Protección de los Derechos Humanos  
 Avda. La Paz No. 2444  
 Contiguo a Galerías La Paz  
 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 26 December 2001.