

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear for safety

3 March 1995

GUATEMALA **Julio Morales Reyes, community activist**
and other workers at the *Coordinadora Cakchiquel de Desarrollo Integral*
(COCADI), Cakchiquel Coordinator for Holistic Development

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Julio Morales Reyes, who is currently recovering in hospital after an attempt on his life. He is a community activist, particularly known for his work with COCADI which promotes development projects amongst the Cakchiquel and other indigenous communities of Chimaltenango department.

On 28 February 1995, as he was leaving COCADI's offices in Chimaltenango, the capital of the department, Julio Morales was intercepted by two men who asked for his papers and then shot him. They then fled on a motorcycle which was parked nearby.

Julio Morales has been threatened several times in the past because of his work. Many of his co-workers have also been threatened over the years. In another incident, on 2 February, two other COCADI activists were stopped and beaten up by heavily-armed men in civilian clothes. The attackers did not take any of the activists' possessions, suggesting that the motive was not robbery. This pattern of attacks, and the fact that in the past, persons wounded in apparently politically-motivated attacks have been snatched from their hospitals beds and "disappeared", heightens fears for the safety of Julio Morales Reyes and his co-workers at COCADI.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since former Human Rights Procurator, Ramiro de León Carpio, took over the presidency of Guatemala in May 1993, human rights violations including extrajudicial executions, "disappearances," arbitrary arrests, torture, and an increasing incidence of harassment and death threats have continued. This is despite the government's purported commitment to respect and promote human rights and to take firm action against impunity, as affirmed in a human rights accord agreed by the government and the armed opposition in March 1994. Victims have included women and children, indigenous leaders and activists, human rights monitors, journalists, students, trade unionists, jurists and politicians. Those responsible remain largely unpunished and there has been no evidence of any genuine efforts to investigate the vast majority of violations that occurred under previous administrations.

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

- expressing concern at the attack on Julio Morales Reyes and the beating suffered by two other COCADI workers on 2 February;
- asking that investigations be immediately launched to establish those responsible for these incidents, that its results be made public and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- urging that all possible measures be taken to protect the life of Julio Morales Reyes and his colleagues at COCADI, so that they continue their important development and educational work in safety.

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 515667
Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente /Dear President

2) Minister of Interior:

Lic. Carlos Enrique Reynoso
 Ministro de Gobernación,
 Ministerio de Gobernación
 Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8
 Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala
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
Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

4) Head of the National Police

Lic. Angel Antonio Conte Cajulún
 Director General de la Policía Nacional
 6 Avenida 13-71, Zona 1
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Telegrams: Director General Policia Nacional, Guatemala
Salutation: Sr. Director General / Dear Director General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:Fiscal General

Lic. Ramses Cuestas Gómez
 Fiscal General de la Nación
 Ministerio Público
 18 Calle 10-36, Zona 1
 Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Faxes: + 502 2 530482

Human Rights Procurator

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

COCADI: Development organization in Chimaltenango

FAX: + 502 9 391 473 (Salutation: Señores)

COINDE National development organisation to which COCADI is affiliated
 Consejo de Instituciones de Desarrollo (COINDE)

40 Avenida y 2a. Calle, Zona 7
Edificio Atanacio Tzul, 3er. Nivel
Residenciales Valle del Sol
01007 Guatemala, GUATEMALA
(or Apartado Postal 590 - I, Guatemala, Guatemala)
Tel: +502 2 934 007 / 914 654 / 914 655 / 914 657
Fax: +502 2 934 009 (Salutation: Señores)

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 20 April 1995.