

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear for safety

30 March 1994

**GUATEMALA: Mario POLANCO, human rights activist  
Carlos POLANCO, brother of Mario Polanco  
Geovany MONROY, cousin of Mario Polanco  
Nineth MONTENEGRO, human rights activist, (f)**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the four people named above following threats and attacks against them.

On 23 March 1994, Mario Polanco and Nineth Montenegro, both leaders of the *Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo por el Aparecimiento con Vida de Nuestros Familiares* (GAM), Mutual Support Group for the Appearance of Our Relatives Alive received repeated telephone threats. The anonymous callers reportedly warned them not to continue their work for human rights or else they would have to face the consequences. Nineth Montenegro appeared on a death list issued on 26 February (see UA 86/94, AMR 34/12/94, 4 March 1994). Mario Polanco was previously abducted on 10 December 1993, ill-treated for two hours and then released (see UA 436/93, AMR 34/86/93, 16 December 1993).

On 26 March 1994, Carlos Polanco and Geovany Monroy, the brother and cousin of Mario Polanco respectively, were attacked by heavily armed men. According to reports, the two men were walking in zone 11 of Guatemala City when they were followed by three men in a van who threatened them and fired shots at them.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Members of GAM have been subjected to human rights violations on many occasions in the past. Over the years since the group was formed in 1984, GAM members have repeatedly been subjected to threats, their offices have suffered grenade and bomb attacks and some leaders and members have been killed in circumstances suggesting they were extrajudicially executed.

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

- expressing concern about the reported attack on Carlos Polanco and Geovany Monroy and the threats received by Mario Polanco and Nineth Montenegro;
- urging for a full investigation into these incidents, that the findings be made public and the perpetrators brought to justice;
- asking for guarantees for the security of all four people as well as other members of GAM.

#### **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 2 347 364**

**Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU**

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

2) Minister of Interior:

Lic. Danilo Parrinello Blanco

Ministro de Gobernación

Ministerio de Gobernación

Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8

Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

**Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala****Faxes: + 502 2 515 368****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 2 515 252 + 502 2 21906****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:

Lic. Jorge Gonzalo Cabrera Hurtarte

Presidente

COPREDEH

15 Avenida 18-38, Zona 13

Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Human Rights Group

Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo por el Aparecimiento

con Vida de Nuestros Familiares (GAM)

Apartado 15, Ofic. 5

Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Human Rights Procurator

Lic. Jorge García Laguardia

Procurador de los Derechos Humanos

12 Avenida 12-72, Zona 1, 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 11 May 1994.