

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Threats/Intimidation

25 May 1993

GUATEMALA: Amílcar David MONTEJO GARCÍA, student leader

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Amílcar David Montejo García who has been threatened and intimidated during the month of May 1993.

Amílcar Montejo is a member of the Consejo Consultativo, Consultative Council, of the Coordinadora de Estudiantes de Educación Media (CEEM), Coordination of Secondary School Students. He had recently made public statements on television questioning government policy, specifically that of the Ministry of Education. During the past two weeks there have been student disturbances in Guatemala City, the capital, which have led to the detention and harassment of students.

On 19 May 1993 Amílcar Montejo was intercepted by two men who asked him questions about the CEEM and then proceeded to follow him. On 20 May he was intercepted once again, this time by people in a blue vehicle. He was told to stop causing trouble and leading the students. That night he was again followed by the same two men who had approached him on the previous day.

Other CEEM members, including Gustavo Armando Estrada Quezada, a student at the Escuela de Comercio de Guatemala, and his girlfriend Ingrid Lucrecia Urrutia Aldana, have also been subjected to threats and harassment during May 1993 (see UA 153/93, AMR 34/26/93 of 13 May 1993).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is concerned at the recent increase in human rights violations against targeted groups, including trade unionists, student leaders, journalists and those working with non-governmental organizations, particularly those attempting to investigate and protect human rights. These groups have been long-term targets of abuses in Guatemala, including harassment, threats, torture, "disappearances", and extrajudicial executions. Such abuses have sometimes been preceded by acts of intimidation and surveillance, such as in this instance.

The announcement by President Serrano on the morning of 25 May 1993 that he was suspending the Constitution and the Supreme Court and dissolving Congress, as well as reports of the arrest of certain government human rights officials, gives further cause for grave concern for the physical security of persons who have received threats or been detained in recent weeks.

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

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

- expressing concern at the incidents of threats and harassment against student Amílcar David Montejo García, a member of Consejo Consultativo de la Coordinadora de Estudiantes de Educación Media;
- asking for guarantees for the security of Amílcar Montejo;
- asking that these incidents be immediately investigated and that those found to be responsible be brought to justice.

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APPEALS TO

1) President of the Republic:

S.E. Jorge Serrano Elías
Presidente de la República de Guatemala
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Telegrams: Presidente Serrano, Guatemala, Guatemala
Faxes: + 502 2 537472, + 502 2 519702
Telexes: 5331 CAPRES GU

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President

2) Minister of Interior:

Lic. Francisco Perdomo
Ministro de Gobernación
Ministerio de Gobernación
Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala
Telephone: + 502 2 21212, ext 500;
+ 502 2 518105-6 (direct)
Telexes: 5085 MINGOB

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

3) Minister of Defence:

Gral. José García Samayoa
Ministro de Defensa
Ministerio de Defensa
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Guatemala, Guatemala
Faxes: + 502 2 537472
Telexes: 5361 COMGUA GU

Salutation: Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Human Rights Procurator:

Lic. Ramiro de León Carpio
Procurador de los Derechos Humanos
12 Avenida 12-72, Zona 1,
Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Faxes: + 502 2 81734

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

Sr. Bernardo Neumann
COPREDEH
15 Avenida 18-38, Zona 13
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

3) Archbishop's Human Rights Office:

Oficina de Derechos Humanos del
Arzobispado de Guatemala (ODHAG)
Apartado Postal 723
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 6 July 1993.