

PUBLIC

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18 March 1999

Further information on UA 26/99 (AMR 34/02/99 18 February 1999) - Fear for safety

GUATEMALA Manuel Estuardo Dávila Juárez (17)
Hilda Yesenia Pérez Alvarez (16)
Irma Beatriz Pérez Alvarez
Roxana Abigael Adalf (16)
Juan Carlos López Girón (21)
Lorena Carmen Hernández Carranza (16)
Nery Mateo Hernández (15)

Amnesty International remains concerned for the safety of street children in Guatemala City, after one was shot dead, another wounded, and two others sexually assaulted.

At about 1.45pm on 14 March 1999 three armed men in civilian clothes drew up in a car on a street where street children were gathered. The men started shouting that they were going to kill Hilda Yesenia Pérez Alvarez in the foot.

Some of the older boys ran off down the street, chased by the men. Manuel Estuardo Dávila Juárez was one of the 22 children arrested and detained in February by the *Policía Nacional*. On that day he had been one of scores of children who gathered at the grave of 13 year old Juan Carlos López Girón, who was murdered by four policemen.

In a separate incident, on 25 February, Roxana Abigael Adalf and Juan Carlos López Girón were stopped by two men, one in the uniform of the *Fuerza Especial Policial*, (Special Police Force), an elite unit of the *Policía Nacional*. Juan Carlos did so but Roxana refused. The two men then said they were going to rape her. The two men gave up the attempted rape and left. This took place in the park where Lorena Carmen Hernández was sexually assaulted (see UA 26/99).

Casa Alianza, an organisation working on behalf of street children, made a formal complaint to the Guatemalan Police's Office of Professionalism and Responsibility (ORP) the four men. The ORP is trying to identify a man believed to be one of their attackers. All four recognised their attacker as a member of the *Policía Nacional*. Since then no report has been forwarded to the *Fiscalía de la Mujer* (Special Prosecutor for Women). A woman has been assigned to the case and a warrant for the arrest of the suspect cannot be requested.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has received many reports of human rights violations against street children in Guatemala. The authorities have apparently made systematic arbitrary arrests of street children in central Guatemala.

Unlike most other human rights violations in Guatemala, there have been several convictions of police officers for violence against street children. However, the authorities do not investigate the majority of the cases.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/ airmail letters

- calling for a full investigation into the death of Manuel Estuardo Dávila Juárez (17) on 14 March 1999, and for those found responsible to be brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of Hilda Yesenia Pérez Alvarez and her sister Irma Beatriz Pérez Alvarez and requesting immediate measures to be taken to guarantee their safety.
- calling for a full investigation into the sexual assault against Lorena Carmen Hernández Carranza and the violence against Nery Mateo Hernández and Juan Carlos López Girón, and for the identification of those responsible.

- calling for the ORP to pass on its report to the Public Prosecutor's Office and for the relevant authorities to issue an immediate arrest warrant;
- calling for the authorities to take immediate and effective measures to guarantee

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic

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Presidente de la República de Guatemala
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Salutation: Presidente / Dear President

Attorney General

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Fiscal General de la Nación, Ministerio Público
6a Avenida 3-11, Zona 4, Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Tel/Fax: +502 362 7223

Telegrams: Fiscal General, Guatemala, Guatemala

Salutation: Sr. Fiscal General / Dear Attorney General

Director of the National Police

Lic. Angel Antonio Conte Cajulún
Director General de la Policía Nacional
6ª Avenida 13-71, Zona 1, Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Tel/Fax: +502 232 7721

Telegrams: Director Policía Nacional, Guatemala, Guatemala

Salutation: Sr Director General / Dear Director General

Director of the Office of Professional Responsibility

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and to diplomatic representatives of Guatemala accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your s

