

2 August 2001

Further information on UA 169/01 (AMR 37/007/2001, 6 July 2001) and follow-up (AMR 37/008/2001) - Fear for safety/ death threats/ unlawful killing

HONDURAS Killed: Carlos Roberto Flores

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

Inhabitants of communities of Gualaco municipality, Olancho department.

Family of Carlos Roberto Flores: Rosa Elvira Flores [f], Martín de Jesús Solís [m] (his parents), Tereza Martínez Avila [f] (his wife) and their two children, aged 3 and 5.

The communities of Gualaco municipality, department of Olancho, continue to live in fear of further attacks after the shooting of Carlos Roberto Flores, on 30 June 2001, reportedly by privated security guards.

An Amnesty International delegation visited Gualaco on 31 July and spoke to a large gathering of its inhabitants, including the family of Carlos Flores, the mayor, councillors and community leaders. There was an overwhelming feeling of insecurity among the community who fear that someone else may be killed at any moment.

In the last month, Rafael de Jesús Ulloa, mayor of Gualaco, and all seven municipal councillors have reportedly been warned on several occasions that there is a large quantity of money on offer to kill them. The mayor and councillors recently stopped attending public events in Gualaco for fear of being attacked.

Rosa Elvira Flores Juárez, Carlos Flores' mother, told Amnesty International delegates that private security guards aim their guns at her house whenever they drive by. The local school closed some three months ago after security guards reportedly shot at a classroom, forcing the teacher and children to throw themselves to the floor.

Carlos Flores was an environmental activist at the forefront of the communities' opposition to the construction of a hydro-electric dam by the private company Energisa. According to eyewitnesses, Carlos Flores was shot outside his house by 10 guards reportedly contracted by a local security company providing services for Energisa.

Arrest warrants have been issued against five of those alleged to be involved in the killing of Carlos Flores. The fact that no detentions have been made leaves the community further exposed to attacks.

Amnesty International is concerned by the failure of the authorities to take steps to guarantee the safety of the people in the region.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please continue to 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;
- expressing fear that there may be further deaths unless urgent measures are taken, in agreement with all those at risk, to provide them with protection;
- asking the authorities to investigate threats and alleged intimidation by private security guards operating in the region;
- urging the authorities to ensure that a full, impartial and prompt investigation is carried out into the death of Carlos Flores, that the results are made public, and that those who planned, ordered and carried out this crime are brought to justice.

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

E-mail: law_bureau@hotmail.com

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 13 September 2001.