

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 34/49/00

8 December 2000

Further information on UA 128/00 (AMR 34/15/00, 22 May 2000) - Fear for safety

GUATEMALA            Ana María Pichol (f), aged 12  
                          Nicolas Pichol Calel and his family

New Names: Rosa Tuis Guarcax (f) and her family

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Rosa Tuis Guarcax, an activist who has been campaigning for the public official that allegedly raped 12-year-old Ana María Pichol to be brought to justice, has received death threats, as have her family. The girl's father, Nicolas Pichol Calel and his family also continue to receive death threats, and are being followed.

In a telephone call on 2 December, a man who identified himself as "part of an armed band of kidnapers and killers" threatened to kill Rosa Tuis Guarcax and her family. Since August, she has received four threatening telephone calls warning her to stop calling for the alleged rapist to be brought to justice. Rosa Tuis Guarcax has been dealing with the case on behalf of *Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala* (CONAVIGUA), a Guatemalan non-governmental organization that campaigns for the investigation of massacres carried out by the security forces during Guatemala's year-long civil conflict, where she works alongside Nicolas Pichol Calel. CONAVIGUA has been pressurising the local prosecutor to continue his investigation into the rape, but since releasing the alleged perpetrator in April, the prosecutor has taken no steps to bring him to justice.

Since 12 December 1999 when Nicolás Pichol Calel reported the repeated rape of his daughter, the family has been subject to continuing intimidation and harassment. They have received a number of death threats, and the official accused of the rape has threatened to have Nicolás Pichol Calel lynched. Lately, the family has been followed by individuals believed to be ex-members of *Patrullas de Auto-Defensa Civil* (PAC), a civil patrol allied to the military known to have perpetrated human rights violations, who support the alleged rapist.

The threats have been reported, and CONAVIGUA has asked the Minister of the Interior to protect its workers and their families, but have had no response.

The official who allegedly raped Ana María Pichol repeatedly in December 1999 is an ex-military commissioner and is currently assistant mayor for a community in the municipality of San Pedro Yepocapa, Chimaltenango. At the time, he told Ana María that he would kill her and her family if she resisted or reported him to the authorities. Despite these threats, Ana María's family brought charges against the official, who was arrested on 28 April but released four days later. Amnesty International believes that the rape of Ana María and the death threats against Nicolás Pichol Calel are related to his work for CONAVIGUA.

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

- urging the authorities to take immediate and effective measures to guarantee the safety of Ana María Pichol Guarcas, Nicolás Pichol Calel, Rosa Tuis Guarcax and their families;
- calling on the authorities to fully investigate the death threats they have received;
- calling on the authorities to continue investigations into the reported rape of Ana María Pichol, and to bring those responsible to justice;
- urging that charges are brought against the official accused of the rape, if there is evidence that there is a case to answer.

**APPEALS TO: (Please note that it can be difficult getting through to some of these fax numbers. Please be patient and keep trying)**

President of the Republic

Lic. Alfonso Portillo Cabrera  
6a. Avenida 'A' 4-46  
Zona 1

Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA

**Fax: + 502 238 3579**

**e-mail: [secgralp@infovia.com.gt](mailto:secgralp@infovia.com.gt)**

**Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Your Excellency**

Attorney General

Lic. Adolfo González Rodas  
Fiscal General de la República  
Ministerio Público  
8a. Avenida 10-67  
Zona 1, Tercer nivel

Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA

**Fax: + 502 221 2718**

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General / Estimado Señor Fiscal General**

Human Rights Procurator

Lic. Julio Eduardo Arango Escobar, Procurador de Derechos Humanos  
Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos, 12 Avenida 12-72, Zona 1  
Guatemala 01001, GUATEMALA

**Fax: + 502 238 1734**

**E-mail: [opdhg@guatenet.net.gt](mailto:opdhg@guatenet.net.gt) / [opdhg@guatenet.gt](mailto:opdhg@guatenet.gt)**

**Salutation: Dear Procurator / Estimado Señor Procurador**

Public Prosecutor's Office

Lic. Rodolfo Gonzalo Hernández/ Lic. Jose Augusto Martinez Monzon  
Fiscal Distrital de Escuintla  
Ministerio Público  
4ª Avenida 2-39, Zona 1  
Escuintla, Escuintla, GUATEMALA

**Telefax: + 502 889 4099/ + 502 888 0437 (If a voice answers, say 'fax por favor')**

**Salutation: Dear District Attorney / Estimado Señor Fiscal Distrital**

**COPIES TO:**

CONAVIGUA

Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas  
de Guatemala (CONAVIGUA)  
8a. Avenida 2-29, Zona 1,

Guatemala, GUATEMALA

**Fax:** + 502 232 5642 (If a voice answers, say 'fax por favor')

**E-mail:** [conavigua@intelnet.net.gt](mailto:conavigua@intelnet.net.gt)

**Salutation:** Dear Friends / Estimados Amigos

Newspaper

Diario "Prensa Libre"

13 Calle 9-31, Zona 1,

Guatemala, GUATEMALA

**Fax:** + 502 251 8768 / + 502 230 2257

**E-mail:** [fdiequez@prensalibre.com.gt](mailto:fdiequez@prensalibre.com.gt) / [mrecinos@prensalibre.com.gt](mailto:mrecinos@prensalibre.com.gt)

**Salutation:** Dear Sir / Estimados Señores

Magazine dealing with women's issues

Laura E. Asturias

*Revista La Cuerda*

Apartado postal 18

Puerta Parada 01973

12 Calle, 2-18, Local B, Zona 1,

Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

**Tel:** + 502 253 6026 / + 502 253 6027 (If a voice answers, say 'fax por favor')

**E-mail:** [leasturias@quetzal.net](mailto:leasturias@quetzal.net)

**Salutation:** Dear Mrs / Estimada Sra. Asturias

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 19 January 2001.