

GUATEMALA Mayra Angelina Gutiérrez Hernández

University lecturer Mayra Angelina Gutierrez Hernandez has not been seen since 7 April 2000. Family, colleagues and local non-governmental organizations fear she has "disappeared". Amnesty International believes that she is in grave danger, and is concerned that the authorities have taken no action.

Mayra Gutierrez was last seen as she left for work at Rafael Landivar University (*Universidad Rafael Landivar*) in Huehuetenango, where she teaches psychology. Her family have reported her disappearance to the authorities, and have looked for her in every prison, hospital and morgue in the region, without success.

Mayra Gutierrez has been a very active member of the Women's Commission at the University of San Carlos (USAC), where she collaborated with several organizations and did research on women's issues. Three years ago she helped to produce a report on illegal adoptions in Guatemala, in which she mentioned the names of lawyers involved.

Two USAC students and an administrator have been killed in the last month. Amnesty International believes these killings and the "disappearance" of Mayra Gutierrez may be a part of political campaign against the university.

Mayra Gutierrez's two brothers and her sister, Julio Gutierrez Hernandez, Walter Gutierrez Hernandez and Brenda Gutierrez Hernandez, "disappeared" in the 1980s.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For many years Amnesty International has been concerned about human rights violations directed against groups, including academics, student leaders, trade unionists and those working with non-governmental organizations, particularly those attempting to investigate and protect human rights, who have faced harassment, threats, torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial executions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish, English or your own language:

- requesting a full and immediate investigation into the possible "disappearance" of Mayra Angelina Gutierrez Hernandez on 7 April 2000;
- expressing serious concern that so far the authorities have done nothing to find out what has happened to her;
- asking that if detained she be promptly brought before a competent court or else released;
- asking that if detained, her safety is guaranteed, and that she is granted access to a lawyer, medical attention and her family.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of the Republic
Lic. Alfonso Portillo Cabrera
6a. Avenida 'A' 4-18
Zona 1

Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Telegrams: Presidente, Guatemala, Guatemala

Fax: + 502 221 4423

Salutation: Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente/Your Excellency

2) Minister of the Interior

Lic. Guillermo Ruiz Gong
6a Avenida 4-64, Zona 1
Ciudad de Guatemala , GUATEMALA
Fax: +502 362 0239/ 362 0237
Salutation: Señor Ministro/Dear Minister

3) Minister of Defence
Col. Juan de Dios Estrada V.
Antigua Escuela Politecnica
Avenida Reforma 1-45, Zona 10
Ciudad de Guatemala , GUATEMALA
Fax: + 502 360 9007/360 9909
Salutation: Señor Ministro/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Women's groups and children's groups
and
Human Rights Organization
Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo por el Aparecimiento
con Vida de Nuestros Familiares (GAM)
8a. Calle 7-46, Zona 1, Pasaje Fénix
Apartamento 15, Ofic. 5
Ciudad de Guatemala, GUATEMALA
Fax: + 502 238 4134
E-mail: gam@concyt.gob.gt
gamali@concyt.gob.gt

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 June 2000.