

MASTER EXHIBIT SERIES

GUATEMALA

PERSECUTION OF POPULAR MOVEMENTS:

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

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All the sources of information contained in this document are identified and are publicly available. Summaries and Abstracts by Mark Silverman and Kim Pedersen of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, San Francisco.

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GUATEMALA

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| I. | <p>Americas Watch, <u>Guatemala: Sole Conviction in Human Rights Case Overturned - Police Acquitted in Killing of Students in Quezaltenango</u> (New York: The Americas Watch Committee, August 1990), pp. 1-4.</p> <p>An appellate court overturned the only conviction to date of security force officers for a crime of political violence. The case concerned the 1987 alleged kidnapping and murder of two agronomists affiliated with the Western University Center in Quezaltenango by the National Police chief for the department of Quezaltenango and five other National Police agents. No other cases against members of the military had ever produced convictions, despite alleged wide scale involvement of army and police in torture, murder and disappearances.</p> |
| II. | <p>EnfoPrensa/USA, "Kidnapping Denounced," <u>EnfoPrensa -Information on Guatemala</u> (Chicago: EnfoPrensa/USA, 23 April 1990), p. 3.</p> <p>The Unity of Trade Union and Popular Action (UASP) denounced the kidnapping of Diego Velasquez and Esteban Salanic, both unionist and students of the University of San Carlos (USAC). Discusses how Salanic was allegedly beaten by his captors.</p> |
| III. | <p>Amnesty International (USA), <u>Urgent Action</u>, Guatemala, "Fear of 'Disappearance'/Possible Extrajudicial Executions," 4 April 1990, "UA/136/90."</p> <p>Discusses the reported abduction of four University of San Carlos (USAC) law students. The dead bodies of three of the students were found, all showing signs of torture and strangulation. The whereabouts of the fourth student remains unknown. The students were reportedly abducted by armed men driving a blue van with polarized windows, "in a manner strongly suggesting security force involvement."</p> |
| IV. | <p>Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, "Disappearances," <u>Human Rights Alert #3,11</u> February 1990.</p> <p>Discusses the reported abductions of Dr. Carmen Valenzuela, a pediatrician, professor of Pediatrics at University of San Carlos (USAC), and president of the Association of Women Physicians, and USAC law student Oscar Garcia. Dr. Valenzuela's car was allegedly rammed by a jeep carrying five or six heavily armed men who grabbed and forced her into their jeep. Garcia, reported to be the fourteenth USAC student to have been kidnapped since August 1989, was allegedly followed and forced into a blue pickup by four armed men.</p> |
| V. | <p>Amnesty International, <u>Amnesty International Report 1990</u> (New York: Amnesty International, 1990), pp. 104-107.</p> |

Discusses the sharp increase in "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions of real or suspected government opponents in 1989 and how the government security forces and the "death squads" linked to them have been implicated in hundreds of cases. Amnesty International reported to the UNHCR the Guatemalan authorities' failure to investigate effectively reported cases, particularly when the military is implicated.

- VI. Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, "Another Student Leader Assassinated," Human Rights Alert #23, 19 December 1989.

Discusses the death of University Student Association (AEU) leader Marco Tulio Montenegro Alvarado who was found dead in Guatemala City. Alvarado had fled the country following death threats and the disappearance and murder of several of his AEU colleagues, but returned after allegedly being assured by President Cerezo that the country was calm.

- VII. Amnesty International, "Guatemala: Teachers Shot and Ill-Treated During Nationwide Strike," Amnesty International Trade Union Bulletin No. 42, October 1989, p. 13.

Discusses how three teachers were shot and wounded when members of the security forces forcibly evicted teachers engaged in a "non-violent occupation" of a building of the District Education Office. Also discusses other cases of torture, beatings and murder of teachers and students who supported the nationwide teachers' strike.

- VIII. Americas Watch, Guatemala: Renewed Violence Against Students (New York: The Americas Watch Committee, October 1989), pp. 1-5.

Discusses the sharp increase in violence against students and teachers of the University of San Carlos (USAC). Since 1989, at least thirteen members of the university community have reportedly disappeared; seven have since been found dead. Also discusses how the circumstances of the attacks indicate that the attacks were politically motivated, despite denials by the government of any responsibility.

- IX. Colum Lynch, "Abductions Raise Guatemala's Death Squad Fears," Miami Herald, 24 September 1989 (as reported in Information Services on Latin America [ISLA], Oakland, California, #1430).

Discusses how the disappearances of ten university students, five of whom were found brutally tortured and murdered, have revived fears that death squads have returned to Guatemala.

- X. "Guatemala: Repression Hits the National University," Central America Report, Vol. XVI, No. 36, 15 September 1989, pp. 281-282.

Discusses the increase in political violence taking place at the National University where eleven students have been kidnapped since mid-August, four of whom have been found dead. In March 1989, the entire University Student Association (AEU) governing council received death threats. The AEU blames the government for the violence while the government blames the extreme right, claiming it is trying to destabilize the democratic process.

- XI. "Guatemala: Fear Pushes Teachers Back to Work," Central America Report, Vol. XVI, No. 32, 18 August 1989, pp. 254-255.

Discusses the use of force by the government to end the teachers' strike. Four people were wounded and a spectator suffered brain damage. One student was seriously burned by toxic powder thrown at him by police. Also discusses how supporters of the strike are being labelled "subversives" by the authorities.

- XII. Haroldo Shetemul, "Guatemalan Students Present Ultimatum to Stop the Escalation of Aggression," Excelsior (Mexico City), 29 August 1989 (as reported in Central America NewsPak,

Vol. 4, No. 15, p. 6).

Discusses the announcement by students of the University Students Association (AEU) of their decision to take harsh measures to stop the escalation of aggression. The students had given the government a 72-hour deadline to stop the violence, and the deadline passed. The decision of the AEU was motivated by the kidnapping of seven students from different colleges of the University of San Carlos.

- XIII. Lindsey Gruson, "Former Dictator is Looking Better to a Guatemala in Chaos," New York Times, 3 September 1989 (as reported in Central America NewsPak, Vol. 4, No. 15, pp. 6-7).

Discusses how the atmosphere of terror in the Guatemalan population created by rising human rights abuses is building support for a return to the strong-arm government of Gen. Efraim Rios Montt. Gen. Montt currently is leading in the race to succeed President Vinicio Cerezo in the elections scheduled for November 1990. Also discusses how after the nationwide strike by teachers and public employees, right-wing extremists have mounted a violent campaign of intimidation and assassination aimed at destabilizing the government.

- XIV. Haroldo Shetemul, "Teachers Evicted from Government Palace," Excelsior (Mexico City), 4 July 1989 (as reported in Central America NewsPak, Vol. 4, No. 11, p. 4).

Discusses the forceful eviction by security forces of 41 leaders of the teachers' strike movement who had taken over the third floor of the Government Palace in Guatemala City. The teachers were demanding negotiations on their demands for a salary increase.

- XV. Reggie Norton, Guatemala: The Lost Opportunity - Some Reflections on the Human Rights Situation 1986-88 (Washington, D.C.: The Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, July 1989), pp. i-ii, 21-26.

Reggie Norton discusses the results of his investigation, on behalf of the Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, of alleged human rights abuses against students and faculty at the National Autonomous University of San Carlos (USAC).

- XVI. Amnesty International, Guatemala: Human Rights Violations Under the Civilian Government, and Appendix I: "Academics and Student Harassed, Tortured, 'Disappeared' and Killed Under the Present Administration" (New York: Amnesty International, 1989), pp. 17-19 and 1-6.

Discusses alleged arbitrary arrest, torture, "disappearance," and extrajudicial execution of University of San Carlos (USAC) students, faculty members and administrators by the Guatemalan security forces, tracing reported abuses beginning in the late 1960's to the present. Appendix I describes twenty-five cases of reported abuses of academics under the present administration.

- XVII. "Students Threatened by New Death Squad," Central America Report, Vol. XVI, No. 9, 3 March 1989, p. 70.

Discusses the dispersment of flyers, containing death threats against twelve student leaders, in a "pamphlet-bomb" explosion at the Association of University Students (AEU) in Guatemala City. The flyers carded the by-line of the new "Double J" death squad. Since then, the AEU reports being threatened and followed.

- XVIII. Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, "Fear of 'Disappearance,'" Human Rights Alert, 14 May 1988.

Discusses the "disappearance" of Diego Ramirez Sosof, a student at the Escuela Normal de Varones in Guatemala City. Diego had received death threats in October 1987. In February 1988,

an alleged member of the National Police tried to attack him.

- XIX. Amnesty International, "'Disappearances' During the Administration of General Mejia Victores," chap. in Guatemala: The Human Rights Record, (London: Amnesty International, 1987), pp. 113-119.
- Discusses the large number reported "disappearances" of students, lecturers and workers at the University of San Carlos in Guatemala City since General Mejia Victores came to power in a military coup in August 1983.
- XX. Amnesty International (USA), Memorandum to the Government of Guatemala Following an AI Mission to the Country in April 1985 (New York: Amnesty International, January 1986), pp. 8-10 and Appendix I.
- Discusses Amnesty International's concern that the academic sector in Guatemala has under successive administrations been the object of human rights violations carried out by the official military and security forces and paramilitary groups formed by members of the official security forces or working with their collaboration. Appendix I lists representative incidents of human rights violations directed at USAC staff and students.
- XXI. Chris Norton, "Guatemala, Charged with Rights Violations, Searches for Respect," Christian Science Monitor, 18 January 1985 (as reported in Information Services on Latin America [ISLA], Oakland, California, #63).
- Discusses how despite Reagan Administration statements that the human rights situation in Guatemala is improving, reports in Guatemala's newspapers of disappearances and tortured bodies found tend to indicate otherwise. Many of the attacks are targeted against university groups, with the National University being especially hard hit.
- XXII. "Guatemalan Professor Kidnapped, Murdered," Miami Herald, 27 January 1985 (as reported in Information Services on Latin America [ISLA], Oakland, California, #64).
- Discusses the kidnap and murder of San Carlos University professor Mayra Jeanneth Meza Soberanis. Right-wing gunmen are suspected by the authorities.
- XXIII. Lindell Cross, "The Women of Guatemala," Peace & Freedom, August 1984 (as reported in Data Center Files, Oakland, California).
- Discusses the role of Guatemalan women in academics and trade unions and the political persecution they suffer on account of their activities.
- XXIV. Jonathan Fried, "Student Leaders Abducted," Guardian, 20 June 1984 (as reported in Data Center Files, Oakland, California).
- Discusses the abduction in 1984 of all eleven directors of the University Students' Association (AEU) from the University of San Carlos by government security forces. Only one director, found tortured and near death, has reappeared.
- XXV. Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Guatemala, "Disappearance," 14 June 1984, "UA 151/84."
- Reports the abduction of ten students from the University of San Carlos (USAC) in Guatemala City over the period of a few weeks. Also reports the death of a university professor who had been abducted from his home in Guatemala City. His body showed signs of torture when discovered.
- XXVI. Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Guatemala, "Further Information on UA 151/84 (14 June 1984) - 'Disappearance,'" 20 August 1984.

Reports that Guatemalan authorities have denied three students reported to have been abducted by armed men on May 6, 1984 in Guatemala City are in detention. The Guatemalan Ambassador to the USA, in a letter to Urgent Action participants, said that the abduction of a fourth person, a medical student, was carried out by subversive groups that were seeking to obtain medical supplies that were in the medical student's possession at the time of his abduction.

XXVII. Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Guatemala, "Disappearance," 3 April 1984, "UA 127/84."

Reports that four students at the University of San Carlos (USAC) were abducted near the university in May 1984. All were abducted by armed men believed to be members of the security forces. Writs of habeas corpus have produced no result.

XXVIII. Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Guatemala, "Further Information on UA 127/84 (24 May 1984) - 'Disappearance,'" 17 August 1984.

Reports that Guatemalan authorities continue to deny that three students, abducted in May 1984, are in detention. Unconfirmed reports indicate that they are in fact in detention and that they have been tortured. At least three of the students were abducted in Guatemala City, and all were believed to have been abducted by armed members of the security forces.

XXIX. Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Guatemala, "Disappearance," 3 April 1984, "UA 79/84."

Reports that Julio Rene Estevez Rodriguez, a professor at the University of San Carlos (USAC) who had worked for the protection of Indian rights, was reportedly abducted in Guatemala City in March 1984. A writ of habeas corpus was presented to the authorities. The police deny that they are holding him. Also reports that 50 students have been reportedly "disappeared" from July 1982 to November 1983.

XXX. Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Guatemala, "Further Information on UA 79/84 (3 April 1984) - 'Disappearance,'" 10 April 1984.

Reports that Professor Julio Rene Estevez Rodriguez has reportedly been released from detention. The professor had been abducted in March 1984 by armed men.

XXXI. Amnesty International, Central American Special Action, Guatemala, "Human Rights Violations Affecting Staff and Students at the University of San Carlos (USAC)," 20 March 1984, "CASA 05/84."

Discusses the alleged human rights violation by official forces, and groups in collaboration with official forces, against students, lecturers and employees at the University of San Carlos. Reportedly, authorities describe the USAC as a "center of subversion." Appendix I lists reported "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions of USAC staff and students from July 1978 to August 1983. Appendix II lists "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions of USAC staff and students since General Mejia Victores came to power in August 1983.

XXXII. "Because We have the Concept of Democracy," The Global Reporter, Vol. 1, No. 3, Fall 1983, p. 5.

Discusses how in recent violence in northwestern Guatemala, schoolteachers have been singled out as targets of government repression. Statements of two school teachers from San Miguel, submitted as part of their political asylum application to the INS, are presented.

XXXIII. Amnesty International, "Guatemala: Tabulation of Extrajudicial Killings Known to Amnesty International During the Period 1 January - 30 June 1981," (London: Amnesty International, 26 October 1981), "AMR 34/51/81."

Presents a list of extrajudicial killings in Guatemala during the period January-June 1981, as compiled primarily from the Guatemalan press. Alleges that the vast majority of extrajudicial killings in Guatemala are being perpetrated by uniformed and/or plainclothes members of the army and police.

XXXIV. Amnesty International, "Academics Detained, Tortured, Killed in Guatemala," (London: Amnesty International, 15 September 1980), "AMR 34/43/80."

Discusses how the national University of San Carlos' administrators, especially the members of its executive counsel, student organizations, and the university as a whole have been denounced by government officials as "leftist." Also discusses the detention, "disappearance, and murder of student leaders and teachers since 1966. Includes "List of University Professors and Staff, Teachers and Students Killed Since January 1980," and "Students and Teachers Detained and 'Disappeared.'"