

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL

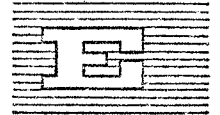
SECTION DES RÉFÉRENCES



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1438
28 January 1981

Original: ENGLISH/SPANISH



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Thirty-seventh session
Item 13 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL
AND OTHER DEPENDANT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Situation of human rights in Guatemala

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Human Rights has been seized with the situation of Guatemala since its thirty-fifth session when it adopted on 14 March 1979, decision 12 (XXXV) by which it decided to send a telegram to the Government of Guatemala stating that:

"The Commission on Human Rights has taken note with profound regret of the assassination on 25 January last of Dr. Alberto Fuentes Mohr, Deputy of the Guatemalan Congress, ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Finance and a former member of the United Nations Secretariat, ... and that the Commission would welcome some information on this matter before the beginning of its thirty-sixth session'."

2. At its thirty-sixth session the Commission had before it for consideration under agenda item "Question of the violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependant countries and territories" a number of documents under the symbols: E/CN.4/1348, E/CN.4/1385 and E/CN.4/1399 containing reports of other cases of assassinations which occurred in the country, and the response of the Government of Guatemala circulated under number E/CN.4/1387. On 11 March 1980, the Commission adopted resolution 32 (XXXVI) entitled "The situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Guatemala". The operative paragraphs of the resolution read as follows:

"The Commission on Human Rights,

"1. Expresses its profound concern at the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Guatemala;

"2. Urges the Government of Guatemala to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Guatemala;

"3. Takes note with satisfaction of the decision adopted by the Government of Guatemala to invite the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to visit the country and to prepare a report on the situation of human rights;

"4. Decides to keep the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Guatemala under review at its thirty-seventh session on the basis of information received from all relevant sources and, to that end, requests the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of the Government of Guatemala and report on the results of this contact to the Commission at that session ...".

3. In accordance with operative paragraph 4, the Secretary-General transmitted resolution 32 (XXXVI) to the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations at Geneva in a letter dated 13 June 1980 which reads as follows:

"The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to resolution 32 (XXXVI), entitled 'The situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Guatemala', adopted by the Commission on Human Rights on 11 March 1980.

"In paragraph 4 of that resolution, the Commission decided to keep the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Guatemala under review at its thirty-seventh session on the basis of information received from all relevant sources. To that end the Commission, in the same paragraph, requested the Secretary-General to bring the resolution to the attention of your Government and to report at that session on the results of the contact thus made.

"The Secretary-General therefore has the honour to transmit a copy of resolution 32 (XXXVI) to your Government herewith. For the purposes of the contact mentioned in paragraph 4 of that resolution he proposes to appoint, following consultation with your Government, a representative to be received by your Government with a view to examining the questions raised in that decision of the Commission on Human Rights. The establishment of contact with your Government in this way would facilitate the Secretary-General's task of submitting the information requested in resolution 32 (XXXVI) to the Commission on Human Rights and would assist the Commission in its plan to keep the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Guatemala under review at its next session.

"The Secretary-General would be grateful if your Government would kindly let him have its comments on this matter as soon as possible."

4. In a letter dated 12 September 1980 addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Permanent Representative of Guatemala stated:

"In your letter you propose to appoint, after consultation with my Government, a personal representative to be received in Guatemala in order to examine the questions raised in resolution 32 of the Commission on Human Rights.

"My Government expresses its appreciation for your intention to appoint a representative to compile the relevant information which you are to submit to the Commission on Human Rights at its regular session in 1981. The Government will in due course indicate suitable dates for the representative's arrival in Guatemala. The reason why this has not yet been possible is that because of the recrudescence of acts of violence by the leftist and rightist factions that operate illegally and clandestinely, the Government feels that the dispatch of a personal representative for the purpose in question would not be appropriate for the time being.

"My Government wishes to confirm that, in Guatemala, the validity, enjoyment and observance of the universally recognized human rights are absolute and have been raised to the status of constitutional precepts."

I. ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

5. By letter dated 20 June 1980, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria raised the issue of the human rights situation in Guatemala with the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights at its 36th session, Dr. Waleed M. Sadi. The Chairman was appealed to to take some action "to curb the violence rampant in that country". The Governments of Denmark and the Netherlands subsequently sent similar requests to the Chairman (which are contained in note verbale dated 27 October 1980, and letter dated 7 November 1980, respectively). The Chairman of the Commission addressed on 12 September 1980, a letter to the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations Office at Geneva expressing the following:

"I am writing to you because reports expressing concern about serious violations of human rights, involving the life, liberty and security of people in Guatemala, continue to reach me. I am aware that the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed himself in June 1980 to the Permanent Representative of Guatemala at the United Nations in New York with respect to the implementation of resolution 32 (XXXVI) of the Commission on Human Rights. The Secretary-General proposed in particular that the contact with the Government of Guatemala, as envisaged in the resolution, be effectuated through a representative of the Secretary-General who may be received by the Government in order to examine the questions raised in resolution 32 (XXXVI) of the Commission.

"As Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights I take a special interest in the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Commission under my chairmanship. I therefore express the sincere hope that joint efforts by the Government and the people of Guatemala, by the Commission on Human Rights and by the Secretary-General of the United Nations will lead to full respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Guatemala."

6. By a letter dated 27 October 1980, addressed to the President of the Commission on Human Rights, the Permanent Representative of Guatemala informed the Chairman as follows:

"Following instructions from my Government, I wish to inform you that due to justified reasons, it is not possible, at the present time, to receive a representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the examination of the issues raised by the above-mentioned resolution 32 (XXXVI)."

"However, I also wish to inform you that the question relating to the visit of the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights of OAS as established in resolution 32 (XXXVI), operative paragraph 3, is being processed. This question will be concluded when adequate securities and conditions for the Commission to fulfil its task in an efficient way, is guaranteed."

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED

7. As of 19 January 1980, the Secretary-General has received information in connection with resolution 32 (XXXVI) of the Commission on Human Rights from the following:

- (1) Member States of the United Nations: Venezuela
- (2) Non-governmental organizations in consultative status: (a) Christian Democratic World Union; (b) International Commission of Jurists (Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers); (c) Inter-Parliamentary Union and (d) Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (World Council of Churches).

8. In addition, the Secretary-General has received information from private sources which are available in the Secretariat.

9. The information received from the Government of Venezuela and from the non-governmental organizations in consultative status and other organizations, pursuant to Commission resolution 32 (XXXVI) is reproduced below.

1. Information received from Governments

[Original: Spanish]

[11 June 1980]

Venezuela

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF VENEZUELA

presents its compliments to the Director of the United Nations Division of Human Rights and has the honour to transmit to him, for submission to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-seventh session, a copy of the Agreement adopted by the Special Commission of the Congress of the Republic of Venezuela with respect to the events in the Spanish Embassy at Guatemala City.

The Permanent Mission of Venezuela takes this opportunity to renew to the Director of the United Nations Division of Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

"AGREEMENT

The Special Commission of the Congress of the Republic of Venezuela,

Considering:

That in contravention of all the relevant international conventions, the Guatemalan police violated and forcibly entered the diplomatic premises of Spain in Guatemala City;

"That, as a result of that police action 39 persons, including Spanish diplomatic personnel, were killed in circumstances that established clearly the responsibility of the Guatemalan Government;

That the criminal act in question, absolutely unprecedented both from the point of view of relations between States and from that of human rights, which furthermore have been violated to an indescribable degree, is in line with the constant infringement of democratic freedoms in Guatemala;

That the barbarity of that conduct on the part of the Government is underscored by the viciousness with which the sole Guatemalan survivor of the tragedy was abducted and subsequently murdered;

That the Guatemalan Government sought to deceive world opinion by presenting a false version of the facts which, incidentally, showed a lack of respect for the Spanish diplomats,

Agrees:

- (1) To express its overwhelming feeling of horror and grief at this abominable act;
- (2) To express the strongest possible condemnation of the conduct of the Guatemalan authorities in respect both of the act committed and of their subsequent attitude;
- (3) To express to the Guatemalan people its solidarity and condolences on this particularly distressing occasion;
- (4) To express its sympathy to the Spanish nation for the wrongs done to it in an incident contrary to all the rules of international law;

- (5) To reaffirm the faith of the Venezuelan Parliament in the principle of the inviolability of the premises of Embassies, and its respect for the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations;
- (6) To call upon the Venezuelan Government to take resolute action to reprove the conduct of the Government of Guatemala by promoting an international movement of censure in the Organization of American States and in other appropriate forums;
- (7) To request the Commissions on Human Rights of the United Nations and the Organization of American States to agree on appropriate sanctions against a régime based on contempt for democracy and human dignity.

Done, signed and sealed in the Federal Legislative Palace at Caracas on 6 February 1980, the 170th year of independence and the 121st year of the Federation.

(Signed): Godofredo Gonzalez
President

Carlos Canache Mata
Vice-President

José Rafael García and
Hector Carpio Castillo
Secretaries".

2. Information received from non-governmental organizations

(a) Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (World Council of Churches)

[Original: English]

[14 January 1981]

GUATEMALA

The Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America (Canada) has monitored the human rights situation in Guatemala closely since 1978. The committee sent two fact-finding missions to Guatemala during 1980 to collect firsthand evidence of the violations of human rights both in the capital city and in the countryside. Committee members have also had extensive interviews with a number of Guatemalans who visited Canada during 1980 at the invitation of church organizations. Information gathered during these interviews included testimony from a five-member delegation from the Democratic Front Against Repression during that mission's official visit to Canada in May. During meetings with officials of the Department of External Affairs, Members of Parliament representing the three major federal political parties, and with church and trade union leaders, these Guatemalans gave detailed evidence of the systematic terror which is being used by the Guatemalan authorities against the people of that country.

The evidence that the ICCHRLA has collected from a wide variety of sources leads us to the assessment that the human rights situation in Guatemala has deteriorated seriously during 1980 under the military government led by Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia. With a toll of 30-40 victims per day, the current wave of repression is the worst, on a national scale, in the history of Guatemala.

Climate of Fear

The ICCHRLA members who visited Guatemala during January/February and in July 1980, reported that the climate of fear in the country was immediately apparent and all pervasive. In late January, we interviewed four of the peasants who had come to the capital from the Quiche to ask for an official investigation into the military occupation of the Quiche and the brutal repression against their people. Two of the peasants we talked to were killed the next day in the Jan. 31st massacre at the Spanish Embassy which took 39 lives; a massacre which was carried out by the Guatemalan police despite the fact that Spanish Ambassador Maximo Cajal y Lopez had called on the Guatemalan government to take no action because no one in the Embassy was in danger. We heard and saw and read the distorted government version of the events of the day on radio and television broadcasts and in newspapers. We attended the funeral procession of the murdered peasants and saw for ourselves the menacing presence of the police and heavily armed men in civilian clothes (who were using vehicles with the license plates covered) on all the street corners along the route taken by the massive funeral procession in which between 5-6,000 people took part.

During a week-long visit in July, we observed that the climate of terror had grown visibly worse. Large numbers of police and military personnel were much in evidence on the city streets and in the countryside. Almost all the interviews we had with church personnel, human rights advocates, social development workers and with peasants and leaders of popular groups were arranged only with the greatest of difficulty because so many people were living under constant surveillance. It was almost impossible to meet with trade unionists, or with professors or students from San Carlos National University because of the unabated kidnappings and assassinations of people from these sectors during the first six months of 1980. Dozens of people known personally to the ICCHRLA, after long years of relationship with Canadian church bodies, were forced to leave the country during this period because of death threats, or constant surveillance, made normal living and working impossible.

Refugees in their Own Country

After careful preparation, we were able to interview, outside the capital city, families who had fled from the Quiche whose relatives had been killed or had disappeared. The people we met were typical of those who are now in hiding in several different parts of the country -- examples of the growing number of Guatemalans who are forced to live like refugees in their own country.

ICCHRLA members left Guatemala aware that an internal state of war was approaching as the army expanded its operations, to more and more areas of the country, forcing large numbers of the indigenous population to search for every possible means to defend their very lives against the increasing terror perpetrated by the government's security forces.

Much of the information gathered on these fact-finding missions is summarized in the reports enclosed: 1) The ICCHRLA Newsletter (July-August 1980); 2) Of Justice, Revolutions and Human Rights -- Notes on a trip to Central America by the Most Rev. Remi De Roo, Bishop of Victoria, B.C.; and 3) The October 1980 issue of The United Church Observer.

One of the Worst Human Rights Violators in the Western Hemisphere

The brutal disregard for the right to life and all other fundamental human rights marks Guatemala as one of the worse human rights violators in the western hemisphere in 1980. Disappearances, assassinations, death threats, arrests, attacks against trade union activities and buildings, land-grabbing from impoverished peasants -- most of whom are indigenous people, attacks on church personnel and property as well as against the universities and the mass media, all form part of the violence being inflicted on this Central American nation. The Washington-based human rights monitoring group, the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, estimates that upwards of 5,000 people were killed during

1980 -- a conservative estimate, other sources put the toll at between 15-20 a day and others even higher as reports of unidentified bodies clothed in native dress floating down rivers between Guatemala and Mexico and the discovery of several mass graves, have come to light. For example, it was reported in May, 1980, that the remains of at least 26 corpses were found in a deep ravine near San Juan Comalapa, Chimaltenango, by students who were searching for a local resident, Neemias Cumes, who had been kidnapped shortly before. The bodies discovered showed signs of torture. There had previously been several reports in the press of secret cemeteries discovered in several parts of the country. Moreover, around this time, the Chicoy River in the Quiche was described as another secret cemetery "due to the daily appearance of corpses floating downstream, so far unidentified, and exhibiting bullet wounds".

Startling revelations concerning the high-level involvement of the Guatemalan government and military in the operation of the supposedly independent paramilitary death squads were made by a former Guatemalan government official in 1980. Elias Barahone y Barahona, press secretary to Interior Minister Donald Alvarez Ruiz from 1976 to mid-1980, told a press conference called when he sought sanctuary in Panama that he was, in fact, a member of EGP (Ejercito Guerillero de los Pobres) who had infiltrated the government. Barahona's denunciations included the claim that the Guatemalan government was directly responsible for the Jan. 31 (1980) massacre at the Spanish Embassy. He said he had been present when President Lucas Garcia personally ordered the attack on the Embassy and also the following day, when government officials fabricated the official version of what had happened.

Government and military involvement in "death squads"

According to Barahona, Interior Minister Alvarez Ruiz had earlier provided him with a hit list of 36 persons and had ordered him, on the basis of this list, to draft the first communique of the Secret Anti-Communist Army (ESA). Those responsible for organizing the supposedly independent "death squads", says Barahona, include five generals: President Lucas Garcia, former President Kjell Laugerud, former-president Carlos Arana Osorio, Anibal Guevara Rodriguez, the Minister of Defense, and Rene Mendoza Paloma, Army Chief of Staff. The ESA, he said, is directed by Colonel Hector Montalban.

A further claim of government responsibility for the operation of "death squads" came from the Republic's own Vice-President, Francisco Villagran Kramer. In announcing his resignation as vice-president on September 1, 1980, Villagran Kramer cited the continuing violation of human rights; the assassination of labour leaders and the persecution of the Indian population -- all of which he blamed squarely on the government.

The repressive activities carried out by the army itself, which were focussed primarily in the Quiche region during 1979, have increased during 1980 to include most of the highland areas, particularly in the Northern Development Corridor where many of the Guatemalan generals have become major landholders since harassment by the army began driving indigenous peasants off land traditionally theirs.

Those persons and sectors of the population who have spoken out against the human rights violations which victimize the majority of poor peasants and workers have, in turn, become victims of repression. Those who have any possibility of getting information to the international community have been particularly hard hit. Many journalists, church people, university people, politicians and trade union leaders have been silenced this year.

REPRESSION AGAINST TRADE UNIONS

During the presidency of Gen. Lucas Garcia, trade unions and trade union members have been amongst the most severely repressed sectors in Guatemala.

Guatemala witnessed a resurgence of trade union organization after the 1976 earthquake as workers confronted the problem of deteriorating real wages due to increasing inflation. This resurgence was met, however, with legal measures of control -- the revision of the national labour code, referred to in the ICCHRLA presentation covering the situation in Guatemala in 1979, which discourages trade union organization and prohibits strikes -- and with direct assaults, assassinations, disappearances, and continuous threats against trade union leaders and members. Workers face harassment in the workplace, intimidation for assuming a leadership position, threats of assassination for attending trade union meetings, and possible kidnapping and disappearance from workplace, home or public gathering -- all with minimal protection or recourse from the judiciary. The government, in the words of President Lucas Garcia at a December 1979 news conference, views trade unionism as subversive.

Although violations of trade union rights and assaults against trade unionists were perpetrated consistently throughout 1980, several specific incidents of a most grave nature, can be picked out to illustrate the current situation in this sector:

- a) Repression connected with May Day activities: On the evening of April 29, 1980, 20-25 armed men raided the offices of the National Confederation of Workers (CNT) in downtown Guatemala City while a trade union meeting was in progress. The attackers kidnapped 18 persons, beat them, warned them under the threat of death to cease trade union activity and not to speak to the press, and later released them on the streets. During demonstrations on May 1 itself, an undetermined number of people were kidnapped; the Guatemalan

press later reported that 19 persons were found murdered in Guatemala City, although ICCHRLA sources indicate the kidnapping, disappearance or murder of at least 100 persons. Among those found dead were several workers and relatives' workers employed at the Ray-O-Vac factory, a subsidiary of the Toronto-based INCO Ltd. Press reports noted the murder of 31 persons throughout the country on, or shortly after, May Day. The majority of those assassinated exhibited signs of physical torture.

b) The Abduction of Leaders of the National Confederation of Workers (CNT)

On June 21, 26 trade unionists were kidnapped from the central office of the CNT in Guatemala City. The trade unionists -- most were leaders or members of the CNT executive -- were meeting to discuss possible action as a result of a series of tortures and deaths of fellow unionists earlier the same week. At approximately 3:00 pm, the streets around the union offices were cordoned off and an estimated 60 armed men forcefully entered the CNT office, ransacked the building and abducted the 26 persons there, including one pregnant woman. Witnesses in the vicinity reported hearing shots during the abduction and bloodstains were found on the floor of the office. Visits by Guatemalan trade unionists to official detention centres failed to establish the whereabouts of the persons kidnapped. Although the CNT office is situated within a block-and-a-half of the headquarters of the Judiciary Police and within two blocks of the 4th Division headquarters of the National Police, the Minister of the Interior and the Chief of the Judiciary Police denied that Guatemalan security forces participated in the kidnappings and disclaimed knowledge of the whereabouts of those missing. The National Committee for Trade Union Unity (CNUS), on the basis of the witness of unionists who escaped from the June 1 raid on the CNT office, has assigned responsibility for the kidnappings to official security forces under the command of the Chief of Narcotics, Detective Branch. During an on-site visit to Guatemala in July 1980, members of ICCHRLA learned of evidence that the unionists were being tortured at secret detention centres but were still alive. As of early 1981, the whereabouts of the following 26 persons have not been discovered, and most observers regretfully conclude that they have been murdered.

1. Orlando Garcia -- TURSA (transport)
2. Bernardo Marroquin Salazar -- KERNS (juice and food processing)
3. Mario Campos Valladares
4. Manuel Sanchez -- INDUPLAST
5. Irma Perez -- INDUPLAST
6. Florencial Xocop -- ACRICASA (textiles)
7. Sara Cabrera Flores -- ACRICASA: Sara is six months' pregnant
8. Hilda Carlota Perez -- ACRICASA
9. Cristina Yolanda Carrera -- Sistemas Electronicos

10. Rafael Antonio Aguilar -- Sistemas Electronicos
11. Ismael Vasquez -- EGSA Coca Cola Plant
12. Florentino Gomez -- EGSA Coca Cola Plant
13. Irvin Rene Hernandez -- CERMACO
14. Selvyn Arnoldo Garcia -- CERMACO
15. Sonia Aledio -- VICKS
16. Mario Martinez -- FOREMOST
17. Cresencio Cornel Ordonez -- Enlozados Nacionales
18. Jorge Luis Serrano -- Enlozados Nacionales
19. Manuel Rene Polanco Salguero -- Prensa Libre
20. Alvaro Estrada -- CERMACO
21. Luis Rodolfo Bonilla -- FOREMOST
22. Oscar Salazar
23. Bernabe de la Cruz -- ADAMS
24. Jorge Zamora -- APOLO Industrial (soap)
25. Sonia Furio
26. Manuel Antonio Rodriguez -- KERNS

c) The Kidnapping of Union Leaders in Escuintla

Seventeen trade union leaders and a Catholic administrator were kidnapped on August 24 while attending a seminar at the "Emaus Medio Monte" estate, a farm and retreat centre belonging to the diocese of Escuintla, on the southern coast of Guatemala. The government denies any knowledge of, or involvement in this massive kidnapping operation. However, ICCHRLA sources indicate direct government involvement in the following ways: the operation was conducted by Alfonso Ortiz, assistant chief of the Detective Branch of the National Police, with troops from the army; the unionists were forced, at gunpoint, into several vehicles belonging to government security forces (government license plates on two of the vehicles were: P-78165 and P-78077); the unionists were taken to the garages of the Detective Branch of the National Police in Guatemala City where they were beaten and tortured under the direction of Pedro Arredondo, the newly appointed chief of the Detective Branch of the National Police. In denouncing this incident, Bishop Mario Enrique Rios Mont (diocese of Escuintla) held the government responsible for the kidnapping; the Bishop subsequently received death threats, as a result of his denunciation. The following persons have been identified as being among the 18 persons kidnapped, whose whereabouts are still undetermined:

Gustavo Adolfo Bejarano

Juan Guerra

Guillermo Turcios

Augusto Yach Ciriaco

Edgar de la Cruz (farm administrator)

Iliana de la Cruz.

d) Repression of Workers at the Coca Cola Bottling Plant

The repression carried out against trade unionists at the Coca Cola Company's franchise bottler in Guatemala, Embotelladora Guatemalteca (EGSA), is representative of the form and degree of violence committed against workers at other factories in the country. Among the dead trade unionists found after May Day demonstrations in Guatemala City were the tortured bodies of two EGSA workers. On May 27, Marlon Mendizabal became the third secretary-general of the workers' union at EGSA to be assassinated. In the early morning of June 21, Edgar Rene Aldana, the secretary of the organizing committee of the union, was abducted from his workplace at the EGSA plant, tortured, and found dead several hours later; Aldana's murder was one of the reasons CNT leaders gathered later that day to discuss labour repression, only to be kidnapped and presumably murdered themselves. When workers struck the plant on June 23, to protest Aldana's murder and the CNT kidnappings, the building was surrounded by agents of the Judicial Police, the Peleton Modelo and the Comando 6; workers from the plant were beaten and several were kidnapped, including Marcelino Santos Chajon.

Although Coca Cola International disclaimed any responsibility for the participation of its Guatemalan franchise holder in acts of repression against the EGSA workforce, the company agreed on July 15 to change the ownership of the franchise, appoint a new management, retain management control for a period of five years and guarantee trade union rights at EGSA. This agreement was the result, substantially, of the international boycott of Coca Cola products organized by the International Union of Food and Allied Workers (IUF). The apparent success of the Coca Cola boycott indicates the effectiveness of international action on behalf of human rights in Guatemala and the need to increase international awareness and pressure.

REPRESSION AGAINST TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Throughout 1980, repression against the education sector in Guatemala -- in particular the University of San Carlos in Guatemala City -- was subjected to both systematic and random repression in the form of assassinations,

assaults, kidnappings, tortures and disappearances. As with all other categories, the repression exercised against this sector reached a level unprecented in Guatemalan history.

Murderous assaults against teachers and students must be understood as part of the widening circle of repressive violence aimed at silencing the few voices remaining in Guatemala which have the capacity to analyze the current situation, denounce the government's complicity and provide intellectual leadership for opposition to the regime. No longer are the regime and its allies content with the elimination of opponents within trade unions, peasant organizations and independent political parties who challenge the regime on an economic and political level; now they seek to destroy sources of moral and intellectual criticism and leadership - within the education sector as within the religious sector.

Prior to 1980, a wave of assassinations which occurred between May 1978 and May 1979 claimed the lives of 35 students, 9 teachers and 3 university professors. Since early 1980, however, even this horrific level of repression has been surpassed. Over 100 teachers and students were assassinated during 1980 including: 12 professors of the Faculty of Legal and Social Sciences of the University of San Carlos; 9 professors from other faculties of the same university; 12 school teachers; and 21 teachers and students who were detained on March 1 and are still missing. (See appended partial list of disappeared and assassinated compiled for the March-April 1980 period.) Another source, Prensa Libre publisher Alvaro Contreras Velez, who serves as president of Guatemala City's Volunteer Firemen Corps (which collects many of the corpses discovered in different regions of the city), states that of over 3,617 people who died violent deaths in the first 10 months of the year, 86 were university professors, 389 were university students and 326 were elementary school teachers. (See This Week, Nov. 24/80)

In addition to the systematic murder of targeted teachers and students, the government's security forces, and paramilitary groups operating under its saction extended their reign of terror through two indiscriminate attacks. On July 14, shortly after Colonel Miguel Angel Firon Matareno was killed by guerillas in Guatemala City, 25 heavily-armed gunmen, in plain clothes and travelling in vehicles without license plates, entered the University of San Carlos and began machine-gunning students on sight. As a result, eight students were murdered and more than 40 wounded. Similarly, nine young men -- apparently students who were already under detention -- were found murdered on August 20, apparently in reprisal for an attack on the Vice-Minister of the Interior for the previous day.

This campaign of repression against the education sector is aimed at destroying intellectual freedom, education rights, freedom of thought and expression, and the very existence of Guatemala's main centre of higher learning.

A Partial List of the Victims of Repression at the
University of San Carlos of Guatemala, March-April 1980

Julio Cesar Romero	Student in Faculty of Dentistry and Organizational Secretary for the Youth wing of the Social Democratic party FUR	disappeared
Julio Cesar Cabrera y Cabrera	Student Faculty of Law, and leader of student association "The Law"	assassinated
Carlos Arnaldo Lopez Nufio	Student	assassinated
Gustavo Madonado Rivera	Student	assassinated
Jorge Jimenez Cajas	Professor of Faculty of Law, Labour advisor, leader of FUR	assassinated
Alejandro Cote	Student of Faculty of Engineering and supervisor of the faculty's Supervised Professional Practice programme	assassinated
Mario Cordoba	Student	assassinated
Roberto Sisniega Mendez	University Administrator and Head of the Sports Dept. of University's extension programme	assassinated
Javier Duque	Professor	assassinated
Axel Corado	Professor	assassinated
Rodolfo Palencia Ruiz	Student	assassinated
Oswaldo Baquix Zepda	Student, Faculty of Medicine	assassinated
Julio Cesar del Valle	Student in Department of Economics and president of Assoc. of Students of Normal School	assassinated
Marco Tulio Pereira	Student and secretary of Economic Sciences Student Association	assassinated
Alfonso Bravo	Secretary of International Relations was also student leader 1978-79	assassinated
Antonio Ciani	Student	disappeared

Carlos Haraldo Lopez	No information on background	assassinated
Antonio Palleras Morales	Student	assassinated
Hugo Rolando Melgar	Professor and Director of the Legal Dept. of the University	assassinated
Fernando Cruz	Employee of the USAC	assassinated
Alfonso Figueros	Director of the Institute of Economic and Social Investigations. His wife was also gravely wounded and remains in critical condition.	assassinated
Marco Antonio Urizar	Student, Secretary General of the Association of Students in Humanities	assassinated
Johnny Dahinten Castillo	Professor, member of the School for Union Orientation, labour lawyer	assassinated
Horacio Flores Garcia	Architect, member of the Planning Commission of USAC	abducted and subsequently assassinated
Victor Hugo Valdez	Student, Faculty of Engineering and member of Planning Commission of USAC	abducted and subsequently assassinated

The bodies of Horacio Flores and Victor Valdez were found together a week after their disappearances. A note was with the bodies saying that more deaths would follow.

Gregorio David Batz Velez	Student	assassinated
Ismael Rivera	Student	assassinated
Victor Ramirez Giron	Student	assassinated

REPRESSION AGAINST JOURNALISTS AND THE MEDIA

Freedom of expression and information is seriously jeopardized in Guatemala today by the most brutal means: threats against media people who criticize the government followed by assassination if they do not heed the warning. During the first eight months of 1980 alone, 13 newspaper and radio journalists were assassinated; three others who have "disappeared" were last seen in police custody. Each one of these victims had received previous warnings to cease reporting that was critical of the Guatemalan government. Moreover, since May 1980, almost a score of media personnel -- including newspaper reporters, radio directors and announcers and professors of journalism -- have fled from Guatemala after receiving death threats. (See Amnesty International, AMR 34/41/80, 27 August, 1980.)

This violence against the media illustrates, once again, the widening circle of repression aimed at silencing voices of criticism and sources of information about the current situation in Guatemala, and symbolizes the totalitarian orientation of the perpetrators of repression and their determination to eliminate the requisites of democracy.

From information ICCHRLA has received from reliable sources, we will pick out just four individual cases of assassinations of journalists, all of which took place in October 1980, to illustrate the form of repression being employed against the media:

- * On October 24, Gaspar Culan, the director of La Voz de Atitlan radio station based in Santiago Atitlan, was kidnapped from his home, tortured and murdered. This radio station, which is supported by such international agencies as Christian Aid, the World University Service and War on Want, broadcast educational programmes in local Indian languages. The murder of Culan occurred during a military occupation of Santiago Atitlan.
- * Radio announcer Felipe Zapeta was kidnapped and killed in the departmental capital of Santa Cruz del Quiche. Zapeta broadcast in the Quiche native language.
- * Journalist Victor Hugo Pensamiento Chavez, a reporter for several newspapers and radio stations, was shot to death as he left the post office in El Progreso. He was well-known for his extensive and well-documented coverage of an attempt to invade Indian land in Santa Maria Xalapan.
- * Irma Flaquer, a journalist known throughout Central America for her work on La Hora and, more recently, La Nacion, was seriously wounded, and kidnapped, in downtown Guatemala City on Oct. 16. She was travelling in a car with her son, Fernando Valle Flaquer, aged 23, when government agents in civilian clothes opened fire with heavy calibre weapons from a passing vehicle. Her son was

killed instantly; Mrs. Flaquer was abducted, has not been seen or heard of since and is presumed dead. A few months before, she had been forced to resign from her position as associate editor of La Nacion after continuing harassment which included several threats, an attempt by the National Police to kidnap her while she was carrying out her journalistic duties and serious injuries sustained when a bomb planted in her car exploded, after she had criticized Gen. Carlos Arana Osorio. Mrs. Flaquer was the founder and co-ordinator of the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission until July 19, when she announced, in an open letter published in La Nacion, that the Commission was being dissolved because the brutal repression of the Guatemalan regime prevented Commission members from carrying out their duties, so making the Commission ineffective.

REPRESSION IN THE RURAL AREAS

For some years now, the peasants -- mostly indigenous people -- living in the more remote rural areas have been subjected to military invasions and occupations of their communities. The Quiche region, for example, has been literally occupied by the army since 1975. The military have set up roadblocks on all roads leading into the area, completely isolating the peasants' communities from the rest of the country. The abuses to which people living in those communities have been subjected by the military range from insults, stealing and destruction of personal property to much more serious incidents of rape, beatings, abductions, torture, murder and bombings. (See "Excerpts from Bulletin No. 3: From the Ecumenical Committee for Justice and Peace", reprinted (p. 11) in the July-August issue of the ICCHRLA Newsletter.)

Military occupations are not confined to the Quiche and wherever they occur the abuse is similar, creating an atmosphere of terror. For example, on Oct. 24, 1980, 18 truckloads of soldiers invaded the town of Santiago Atitlan, in the western region of the country, south of Quetzaltenago. The soldiers abducted the director of the radio station the first evening (see Repression Against Journalists and the Media in this report) and at least three other persons during the next few days. The army had a list of people who had worked in co-operatives, literacy programmes, at the radio station and in religious groups, as well as leaders of the Committee of Peasant Unity (CUC) and they conducted searches of houses during the day and at night. The people were terrified and a large number of them took refuge in the Roman Catholic church and in the chapels of the Evangelical churches. The army stayed for a week and during that time the town was cut off from all communication with the rest of the country. News of what was happening there became available only after three persons managed to escape from the town. (See ICCHRLA October 1980, Information Update and Globe & Mail newsclip.)

The municipality of Comalapa was taken over by the army on July 25. Since that time, eight persons have been kidnapped, the school and two Catholic churches have been occupied and searched. Buses arriving and leaving are constantly checked by soldiers. On Oct. 10, the army distributed flyers saying the Committee of Peasant Unity (CUC) was responsible for all the repressive actions the community had suffered. On Oct. 15, soldiers again occupied the town. There was an attempt to kidnap the parish priest (for the third time) but they could not find him. The mayor of Comalapa received a death threat in a letter and, more recently, a group of heavily armed men asked for his resignation at gunpoint.

Peasants tortured

The municipality of San Martin Jilotepeque has been invaded by the army a number of times, in this same period. The soldiers search the houses, ransacking the interiors, asking for leaders of the CUC. Six peasants were kidnapped and tortured for a period of four days in an attempt to obtain information on the whereabouts of peasants on the army's list.

In Parramos, at 9:0 a.m. on Sept. 30, several detectives in civilian clothes, accompanied by 10 uniformed policemen, went to the home of a peasant and accused the family of making bombs. In another house, they accused the family of hiding arms and, not finding the head of the family at home, beat up the wife and children, stole the family's craftwork, money and a typewriter.

Of particular concern to Canadians -- because he was a U.S. citizen who had visited and worked in Canada -- is the abduction, torture and death of Kai Yutah Clouds (also known as Veit Nikolaus Stoscheck). This 32 year old man was an active participant in the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and had a deep-rooted commitment to non-violence. He was working with indigenous people in Guatemala, primarily in the areas of natural pest control and organic farming. It has been ascertained, from eyewitness reports, that on Oct. 10, at approximately 1:15 p.m., he was abducted in Chilmaltinango, 100 km from the village's central park, by five heavily armed men in civilian clothes (reported to be members of the security forces) who hit him over the head with a gun and dragged him into a red Honda Civic (the type of car commonly used by the security forces). His body, with multiple head injuries, was found, subsequently, in the city of Antigua; time of death was estimated at 4:00 a.m., Oct. 11.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

Persecution of church personnel -- both clergy and laity -- has escalated dramatically during 1980. The increased persecution has been marked by death threats, disappearances, assassinations and the destruction of

church property. Many people believe that the purpose of the direct attacks on church personnel is to remove witnesses to the massacres and other incidents of brutal repression carried out against the people of Guatemala.

Repression in the Quiche diocese

Repression in the Quiche began in 1975, after plans for the economic development of the region had been announced. By the end of 1975, the army had established a base in the region and repression began in the northern part of the region. In 1976, the repression had moved into Nebaj, Cotzal and Chajul in the southern region. By 1979, the entire department of El Quiche had been occupied by the army; many of the towns had become occupied zones, isolated from the rest of the country and the people living in these communities are at the mercy of the military and are subjected to terrible abuse.

The military has carried out direct repression against pastoral workers in the Quiche since March 1980, when the convent of Ixtapan was strafed with machine-gun fire and bombed twice, forcing community members to leave; and, later the same month, the parish premises at San Miguel Uspantan were attacked with grenades and machine gun-fire. On May 9, the badly tortured body of Baltazar Roz Medrano, ex-president of Catholic Action in Santa Cruz was found near Radio Quiche. On June 4, Father Jose Maria Gran, a missionary of the Sacred Heart Community was assassinated in Chajul. Another missionary from the same community, Father Faustino Villanueva, was found murdered on July 10.

Many other religious workers are on the army's "hit lists" and countless numbers of catequists and Christian lay leaders have been assassinated or have received death threats. After the assassination of Fr. Faustino, two attempts were made to kill the bishop of the diocese of Quiche, Mons. Juan Gerardi. (See "Genocide in El Quiche" in the appendix for details.) As a result of this direct persecution, Bishop Gerardi, in consultation with his clergy, decided to remove all religious and priests from the diocese and encourage all pastoral workers to leave as well. The diocese was officially closed on July 21.

Bishop Gerardi travelled to Rome to provide a full report to Pope John Paul II regarding the closing of the diocese and the generalized repression being carried out against the church and the people of Guatemala. On Nov. 1, the Pope wrote to the Cardinal and the bishops of Guatemala expressing deep concern over the political violence in Guatemala and its effects on church personnel and committed lay persons. The Pope's letter was printed in its entirety in the newspaper Impacto on Nov. 19. Upon his return, Bishop Gerardi was refused entry into Guatemala, at the Guatemalan airport.

Repression against Church Widespread

Repression against the church has not been limited to one area, however. Wherever Christians in Guatemala have become responsive to the social injustice and human rights violations suffered by the people, and are speaking and working to change such situations, official and unofficial security forces have responded with violence. The Jan. 16 statement on human rights issued by the Provincial Superior of the Company of Jesus for Central America and Panama, the National Council of Jesuits of Guatemala and the Superiors of Jesuit Communities of Central America and Panama (see July-August 1980 ICCHRLA Newsletter, p. 4) described the government of Guatemala as an "unjust, coercive regime" and accused the government of kidnapping, torture and murder. After the statement was published in the daily newspaper El Grafico, the Jesuits received death threats from the ESA, and the right-wing political party, the Movimiento de Liberacion (MLN) called for the immediate expulsion of the Jesuits. Members of the ecumenical Justice and Peace Committee have also received death threats violations of the government. There were several reports that the government was planning to kill all members of the Committee before the end of 1980.

On May 1, Father Conrado de la Cruz, a Philippino member of the Belgium missionary order of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and his Guatemalan assistant, Herlindo Cifuentes, were detained by heavily armed men in Guatemala City and subsequently disappeared. Eleven days later, on May 12, another Belgium missionary, Father Walter Voordeckers, was killed outside his church, after receiving several threats from the so-called Secret Anti-Communist Army (ESA) which is believed to be a front for Army Intelligence Units. Many other foreign priests and religious sisters have been harassed severely by visa restrictions, surveillance and death threats. As a result of such harassment, at least 10 priests and several religious sisters were forced to leave the country in 1980.

Convent of Canadian Religious Sisters Attacked

On August 28, 1980, at 2:00 a.m., the convent of Canadian religious sisters from the St. Joseph's community of Toronto, in the town of Morales, four hours to the east of Guatemala City, was attacked by suspected right-wing paramilitary personnel using grenades and machine-gun fire. The parish house of Guatemalan priest Father Carlos Herrera was also attacked. Subsequently, Fr. Herrera and another priest from the diocese were forced to leave the area for their own safety. (See enclosed ICCHRLA press release.)

On Nov. 19, evangelical pastor Santos Jimenez Martinez was assassinated by heavily armed civilians while leaving the evangelical chapel in Santo Domingo, Suchitepequez. Pastor Jimenez had been working with poor peasants who were struggling against the serious effects of pesticide poisoning of their land and animals. (See enclosed statement of the Fraternidad de Cristianos Evangelicos del Pueblo.)

We would again draw your attention to evidence presented elsewhere in this report of collusion between the paramilitary "death squads" and the official military and security forces.

Army helicopters are used regularly for surveillance of residential neighbourhoods, religious institutions and in the countryside. On July 12, about 50 fully-armed and flack-jacketed troops took over the Presbyterian Seminary in San Felipe. The 65 Prsbyterian pastors and church workers were confined to the dining room while troops searched the administration building, claiming to be looking for a clandestine guerilla hospital.

The ICCHRLA has also received firsthand reports of night-time searches of a number of religious houses in the capital and in other parts of the country. When these searches take place, the occupants are warned that if they report the incident they will be killed. While the reason given for entering the buildings is to search for arms or subversive material, it is much more likely that these are further efforts to intimidate and silence the church in Guatemala.

Appendices

Church

- Statement of 140 priests, Religious and Laity assembled in Guatemala City by the Ecumenical Committee for Justice and Peace, May 5, 1980.
- Statement by Episcopal Conference of Guatemala, July 24, 1980
- Statement of "Cristianos Evangelicos del Pueblo" (November 1980) regarding assassination of Pastor Santos Jimenez Martinez.

Disappeared Persons

- ICCHRLA letter (Sept. 25, 1980) to Working Group on Enforced or Voluntary Disappearances regarding cases of disappeared persons.
- Statement of the Congregation of Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (May 5, 1980) regarding disappearance of Father Conrado de la Cruz and Herlindo Cifuentes.

Peasants

- Statement by Peasant Communities of El Quiche (Jan. 16, 1980) regarding military repression.
- Statement by Committee for Peasant Unity (CUC), (March 6, 1980) regarding massacre at Rio Negro, Rabinal.

Spanish Embassy Massacre

- Letter to the Spanish Ambassador and the Diplomatic Corps in Guatemala (Feb. 1980) from the International Commission of the Committee for Justice and Peace.

These documents are available in the Secretariat for consultation.

- (b) International Commission of Jurists (Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers)

[Original: English]

[19 June 1980]

II

The International Commission of Jurists and Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers have learned of the assassination of eight lawyers in Guatemala since the beginning of 1980. Pursuant to Resolution 32 (XXXVI) of the Commission of Human Rights, in which it is decided to keep the human rights situation in Guatemala under review and to receive information from all relevant sources, we hereby submit the following summary of these eight cases :

Ruben Ixcamparic, a labour lawyer and member of the legally recognised social-democratic party FUR, was killed on 24 January 1980 in the centre of Guatemala City while leaving a FUR meeting.

Jorge Jiménez Caja, labour lawyer, professor at San Carlos University and member of the same political party, was machine-gunned in his office in Quezaltenango on 5 March 1980.

Rolando Melgar, lawyer and ~~legal advisor to San Carlos University~~ was assassinated on 17 March 1980.

Johnny Dahintin Castillo, member of the law faculty at San Carlos University and member of the 'Bufete Popular', an office which provides legal assistance to the poorer sectors of the population, was assassinated on 9 April 1980.

Carlos Figueroa Aguja, also a member of the 'Bufete Popular' and member of the law faculty of San Carlos University was ambushed and machine-gunned as he drove to work in Guatemala City on 9 June 1980.

Carlos Martinez Perez, a member of the San Carlos University law faculty was killed the same day and in the same manner as Carlos Figueroa Aguja, in a separate incident.

Octavio Paredes, a member of the Bufete Popular was assassinated near his office on 12 June 1980, the third member of the Bufete to be assassinated since the killing of Dr. Dahinten Castillo on 9 April.

Jose Antonio Valles Estrella, a lawyer and member of the Christian Democratic Party, was machine-gunned in his automobile on the same date, 12 June 1980.

The Government of Guatemala is proud of its continued recognition, in a time of sharp social conflict and in contrast to some other Latin American governments, of multipartism, genuine trade unions and freedom of the press. However, formally recognized rights have little value if there are no lawyers vigorously to defend these rights against any encroachment. Most of the lawyers killed are known to have professional ties with trade unions, rural workers organizations or San Carlos University. Consistent with the Latin American tradition of the autonomy of universities, this national university has become a centre for independent thought and criticism, and is also known for the training of labour lawyers.

The pattern of killing suggests a deliberate effort to deprive certain groups of their legal rights by victimization and intimidation of their legal representatives and counsellors. Thus far governmental attempts to prevent the assassination of threatened individuals or to bring the culpable parties to justice has been singularly ineffective. This has encouraged a widespread popular belief that there is governmental complicity in these assassinations - a belief which we are not in a position to either support or deny, but which underlines the need for a thorough impartial investigation of these facts."

(c) Inter-Parliamentary Union - two resolutions

[Original: English, French,
Spanish]

(i) Resolution adopted unanimously by the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 126th session in Oslo on 12 April 1980.

...

The Inter-Parliamentary Council,

Having also received a memorandum and heard a detailed statement on the human rights situation in Guatemala from the National Groups of Venezuela and Spain, from which it emerges that violence in Guatemala has assumed more serious characteristics since General Lucas Garcia became President of the Republic in 1978; that illegal organizations working with complete impunity have murdered political, trade union, student and agricultural leaders; that repression has spread to the religious sphere; and that, while it is true that extremist groups commit acts of violence, there exist justified suspicions and serious indications that the most serious violence is that which is tolerated or instigated by the Government itself;

Requests:

I. The Government of Guatemala:

1. To restore the rule of law, which constitutes the best guarantee against subversive activities and, in particular, to restore the right to life, full freedom for all political parties and the political rights of all citizens;
2. To restore constitutional rights and guarantees;
3. To guarantee the genuinely democratic nature of the process of national pacification;

4. To clarify fully the situation of missing persons and to undertake effective action in order to unmask and punish those responsible for acts of violence;
5. To put an end to tortures, kidnappings, searches, illegal measures of control and persecutions, and to prosecute those responsible for such acts;
6. To restore fully the independence of the Judiciary;
7. To respect the right to reside in the country or to leave it;
8. To restore freedom of opinion and expression;
9. To make trade union legislation fully consistent with the standards laid down by the International Labour Organisation and to apply it effectively;

II. The National */ Group of Guatemala:

To do all in its power to ensure the implementation of this resolution;

III. The National Groups */

1. To call on their Governments to denounce in the international bodies the human rights violations for which the Government of Guatemala is responsible and, in particular, the practice of violence and kidnapping, and to exert pressure on the Government of Guatemala to put an end to that situation;
2. To call on their Governments to refrain from granting military or financial aid to the Government of Guatemala, without prejudice to the humanitarian aid accorded to the people of Guatemala.

C.

The Inter-Parliamentary Council,

Recommends to the National Groups that they:

1. Circulate the Special Committee's report and this resolution as widely as possible and, in particular, bring these documents to

*/ The Inter-Parliamentary Union is composed of National Groups which are constituted either by a national Parliament as a whole or by a part of its members.

the attention of their respective Parliaments and Governments so that they may take the appropriate measures and inform public opinion of their contents;

2. Inform the Secretary-General regularly as to the steps taken and the results obtained.

(ii) (Resolution adopted unanimously by the Inter-Parliamentary Council, at its 127th session, on 15 September 1980)

"The Inter-Parliamentary Council,

Referring to the unanimous resolutions adopted at its 125th and 126th sessions concerning Deputy Alberto Fuentes Mohr, of Guatemala,

Taking note of the report of the Special Committee (CL/127/80/5),

Recalling that the communication received by the Special Committee reveals that Deputy Alberto Fuentes Mohr was murdered on 25 January 1979, towards 1 p.m., in the street, as he was leaving the National Congress building in Guatemala City; that, some days before he was murdered, he had received threats on his life if he persisted in his desire to register the Democratic Socialist Party, of which he was the founder, at the Electoral Register Office of Guatemala; that one of the witnesses of the murder, a former policeman named Alvarado, was kidnapped from his home on the afternoon of the crime and then murdered; that the information transmitted in March 1980 in reply to the Council's requests by the National Congress, the governmental authorities and the Supreme Court of Guatemala reveals that an investigation procedure (No. 109/79), initiated on 25 January 1979 and currently conducted by the 1st Judge of the 9th Criminal Court of First Instance, is still at the stage of preliminary enquiry and consequently, and in accordance with the legislation in force, the contents of the investigation report by the judicial section of the Public Prosecutor's Office cannot be revealed, and that the Public Prosecutor's Office, acting on behalf of the State, is the plaintiff in the case,

Considering that other information contained in the file reveals that the murder of Deputy Fuentes Mohr is part of a general pattern of suppression of the freedom of expression by violence and of elimination by murder, with entire impunity, of political opponents,

Noting that the parliamentary, governmental and judicial authorities of Guatemala have taken no action on the repeated communications sent to them in accordance with the resolution of the 126th session of the Council (April 1980).

Noting, moreover, that the two personalities appointed by the Parliament of Venezuela to visit Guatemala on a fact-finding mission concerning the murder of Deputy Fuentes Mohr, namely, Mr. C. Canache Mata, then Vice-President of the Congress and President of the Chamber of Deputies, and Mr. E. La Riva Araujo, President of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, have been unable to visit Guatemala since the necessary visas have not been issued to them; that the Inter-Parliamentary Council had in due time informed the Guatemalan authorities of the great interest which it attached to the accomplishment of that mission,

1. Deplores that the National Group of Guatemala and the country's governmental and judicial authorities have not taken action either on the repeated requests for information made by the Inter-Parliamentary Council as to the development and results of the investigation into the murder of Deputy Fuentes Mohr, or on the request for visas for the members of the Venezuelan parliamentary fact-finding mission;
2. Is led to the conclusion, from the facts contained in the file, the silence maintained by the authorities of Guatemala with regard to its repeated requests for information and the lack of co-operation shown to the fact-finding mission appointed by the Parliament of Venezuela, that the Government of Guatemala has a direct or indirect responsibility in the matter of Deputy Alberto Fuentes Mohr's murder."

(d) Christian Democratic World Union

[Original: English]

[25 June 1980]

"Following the resolution 32(XXXVI) concerning Guatemala, we would like to draw your attention to the series of political assassinations of the leaders of the Christian Democratic Party of Guatemala, Partido Democracia Cristiana Guatemalteca, perpetrated last month with alleged participation of the officers of the Guatemaltecan Military Police. We also ask for the good offices of the United Nations and its Secretary-General to insure the personal safety of the leaders and the rank and file of our affiliate, the PDC Guatemalteca.

I am enclosing a set of documents which I received recently from Guatemala concerning political assassinations. Unfortunately some of them are practically illegible. Therefore, following is a short resumé in English of these documents, which I prepared to my best ability.

Situation in Guatemala

The situation in Guatemala is characterized by an increasing political violence, with leftist guerilla roaming the country, on one side, and the extreme-right political and paramilitary organizations, often supported by the Government's security and military personnel, trying to eliminate moderate opposition by harassment and assassinations. Having during the last couple of years eliminated the moderate opposition leaders of liberal and social-democratic tendencies, the extreme right paramilitary organizations supported in some cases by the Government's security apparatus, have recently concentrated its attention on the major moderate opposition group, Democracia Cristiana Guatemalteca. Recently, and with increasing intensity since last local and municipal elections, which gave the Christian Democratic Party relative majority of 25 per cent against 6 pro-governmental parties, several assassination attempts were perpetrated resulting in the death in recent weeks of 5 provincial and national leaders of the Democracia Cristiana Guatemalteca.

On 24 April 1980, Professor Ricardo Marín Jimenez, a Christian Democratic municipal counsellor in the town of Los Amates of the Izabal Department, was machine-gunned and killed, while having lunch with three other school teachers

in a local restaurant. Notwithstanding the complaints lodged with the local police and with the Central Government, no investigation was undertaken. Soon after, obviously encouraged by the impunity, further attempts were made against four other provincial and national leaders of Partido Democracia Cristiana Guatemalteca. On 22 May, the leader of the youth of PDCG and the President of the Students Association in the Department of Tetonicapán, Juan Calderón Tuníl, was abducted from his house and assassinated by a group of people wearing civilian clothing, among whom a police official in Mazatenango Munde Illasinda, was recognized by the witnesses to murder.

Another Christian Democratic leader, Sebastian Xon, from Chichicatenango was assassinated in similar circumstances the following day. Lastly, Francisco Sisimat Par, candidate for the Parliament in the last elections from PDCG, was found dead on 25 May with several knife wounds. On 28 May, a truck with the registration No. E 16245 stopped in front of the house in S. Cruz Quiche, of a registered accountant, Julio Hamilton Noriega Natareho, one of the founders of the PDCG. Five armed men stepped down, two stayed at the door and three entered the house. They started pushing around Mrs. Hamilton who had opened the door and when, hearing the noise, Mr. Hamilton rushed in from his office, three assailants pulled out pistols and started shooting at him, then finally one of them approached the lying on the floor victim and with his pistol fired "coup de grace".

One month before the assassination, Sr. Hamilton reported to the authorities of the PDCG, that he was harassed and threatened with assassination by a military police lieutenant, Shafer Paz, and two weeks before the assassination, it was reported that in the barracks of the Military Police in Santa Cruz del Quiche a meeting was held between a police lieutenant and the para-military group of persons, strangers to the region, belonging to the Government's party: Movimiento de Liberación Nacional, during which a list of persons to be assassinated was prepared and in which figured: Julio Hamilton Noriega, as well as a national deputy from PDCG, Guillermo Villar, and another Christian Democratic leader, Claudio Cochax.

Confronted with this series of political murders of its provincial and national leaders, the Partido Democracia Cristiana Guatemalteca lodged a protest with the Government's authorities, and, receiving no satisfaction, albeit reply, the Party authorities decided on 8 June to close down, as a sign of mourning and protest, all the Party's offices in the provinces as well as its national headquarters in the Ciudad de Guatemala,

The above described critical situation in Guatemala is being brought to your attention in order that all appropriate means at the disposal of the United Nations be used to impress on the Guatemaltecan Government the urgent need to insure the personal safety and protect the lives of the militants of the Christian Democratic Party of Guatemala.

The documentation received from Guatemala, some of it unfortunately poorly legible, is enclosed."