



City of Cambridge

37.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 7, 1993

COUNCILLOR WOLF
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
MAYOR REEVES

WHEREAS: President Jorge Serrano Elias has suspended the constitution of Guatemala, dissolving the Congress and Supreme court and attempting to arrest leading officials, such as the Human Rights Procurator, Ramiro de Leon Carpio, the President of the Congress Jose Lobo Dubon, and others; and

WHEREAS: Amnesty International has called on people world wide to demand "the maintenance of principles of human rights protection enshrined in international law to which Guatemala is bound by treaty and in law...."; and

WHEREAS: The Cambridge City Council supports for protection of human rights wherever they might occur; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That in keeping with Amnesty International's request, the Cambridge City Council calls upon the government of President S.E. Jorge Serrano Elias to guarantee that all human rights are protected, to reestablish immediately the functions of the judiciary, public ministry and legislature; and to release those who have been arrested as political prisoners; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the President of Guatemala, the Guatemalan Embassy in Washington, Head of the Presidential Commission coordinating the Policies of the Executive relating to Human Rights, Amnesty International USA in Somerville, and to our entire delegation in Congress.

PLACED ON FILE BY COUNCILLOR WOLF



URGENT ACTION APPEAL

URGENT ACTION PROGRAM OFFICE • P.O. Box 1270 • Nederland, CO 80466-1270 • 303-440-0913 • FAX: 303-258-7881

UA 172/93 Grave Threat to Human Rights 26 May 1993
GUATEMALA: Ramiro de León Carpio, Human Rights Procurator
José Lobo Dubon, President of Congress
Juan José Rodil Peralta, President of the Supreme Court
Edgar Tuna Valladares, Acting Attorney General

Amnesty International calls on its membership worldwide to denounce as a dangerous and unacceptable risk to human rights protection, the actions of President Jorge Serrano Elias in suspending the constitution, dissolving the Congress and Supreme Court, arresting state officials and replacing the rule of law with rule by personal decree.

The unlawful attempts to arrest leading officials such as the Human Rights Procurator, Ramiro de León Carpio, the President of Congress, José Lobo Dubon, the President of the Supreme Court, Juan José Rodil Peralta, and the acting Attorney General, Edgar Tuna Valladares, all indicate an apparent intention to flout procedures for the protection of basic human rights and pose a grave threat to the observance of such rights in Guatemala. This is aggravated by the suspension of offices concerned with human rights such as the Human Rights Procurator's Office and the Attorney General's Office. Following indications that human rights monitors from other central American countries currently visiting Guatemala may be subjected to some form of detention, there is also cause for grave concern for the safety of all independent human rights organisations in the country.

Amnesty International demands the maintenance of the principles of human rights protection enshrined in international law to which Guatemala is bound by treaty and in law to observe. These include the American Convention on Human Rights of the Organisation of American states and the United Nations (UN) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). These instruments stipulate that even in time of war, public danger or other emergency governments are obliged to protect certain fundamental rights including the right to life, to physical security and to judicial guarantees such as habeas corpus.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

These moves have come in the wake of large-scale protests in the capital, Guatemala city. Amnesty International is concerned that targeted groups, including trade unionists, student leaders, journalists and those working with non-governmental organizations, particularly those attempting to investigate and protect human rights, may now be even more vulnerable to human rights violations. These groups of people have been long-term targets of abuses in Guatemala, including harassment, threats, torture, "disappearances", and extrajudicial executions. Amnesty International is also concerned that government officials carrying out human rights initiatives will also be at risk.

This Urgent Action appeal originated from Amnesty International's research headquarters at the International Secretariat in London, United Kingdom. Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, color, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used nor advocated violence. These are termed prisoners of conscience. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners without reservation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- demanding immediate guarantees that all human rights protected in Guatemala's constitution will be observed;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of anyone arrested for their conscientiously held beliefs and who are known not to have used or advocated violence, including Human Rights Procurator Ramiro de León Carpio, Congressional President José Lobo Dubon, Supreme Court President Juan José Rodil Peralta, and the Acting Attorney General, Edgar Tuna Valladares;
- urging the government to take all necessary steps to ensure that basic human rights are not abrogated and to ensure the physical integrity of any persons already detained, including protecting them from extrajudicial executions, "disappearance," and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment;
- calling for information to be made public concerning all those detained, and that any individuals in custody be permitted access to their families and to legal representation;
- urging the government to immediately issue a public directive to the security forces stating that human rights of all citizens, including human rights defenders, are to be fully protected and that any infractions of human rights standards will be severely punished;
- calling on the government to immediately reestablish the functions of the judiciary, public ministry and legislature designed to protect human rights.

APPEALS TO

[Salutation]

1) President: [Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente / Dear President]

S.E. Jorge Serrano Elías
Presidente de la República de Guatemala
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA
(Telegrams: Presidente Serrano, Guatemala, Guatemala)
(Faxes: 011 502 2 537472, 011 502 2 519702)
(Telexes: 305 5331 CAPRES GU)

2) Minister of Defence: [Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister]

Gral. José García Samayoa
Ministro de Defensa
Ministerio de Defensa
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA
(Telegrams: Ministro de Defensa, Guatemala, Guatemala)
(Faxes: 011 502 2 537472)
(Telexes: 305 5361 COMGUA GU)

3) Minister of Interior: [Sr. Ministro / Dear Minister]

Lic. Francisco Perdomo
Ministro de Gobernación
Ministerio de Gobernación
Despacho Ministerial, Of. No. 8
Palacio Nacional, Guatemala, GUATEMALA
(Telegrams: Ministro de Gobernación, Guatemala, Guatemala)
(Telephone: 011 502 2 21212, ext 500; 011 502 2 518105-6 (direct))
(Telexes: 305 5085 MINGOB)

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Head of the Presidential Commission Coordinating the Policies of the Executive relating to Human Rights:

Sr. Bernardo Neumann
COPREDEH
15 Avenida 18-38, Zona 13
Guatemala, GUATEMALA

Newspaper:

Diario "Prensa Libre"
13 Calle 9-31
Zona 1, Guatemala
GUATEMALA

Association of University Students

Asociación de Estudiantes Universitarios
"Oliverio Castañeda de León" (AEU)
Ciudad Universitaria
Zona 12
Guatemala
GUATEMALA

Embassy

Ambassador Edmund Mulet
Embassy of Guatemala
2220 R St. NW
Washington DC 20008

Please send appeals immediately. Check with the Colorado office between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm, Mountain Time, weekdays only, if sending appeals after July 7, 1993.



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Consent Order #37

Councillor Wolf RE: Protection of
Human Rights in Guatemala

R 275

In City Council,
June 7, 1993

Placed on file by
Councillor Wolf.