

What Else Can You Do?

Take 5 minutes, sit down and write 2 simple letters:

THE HONOURABLE JOE CLARK
Minister of External Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

telling him that you are absolutely opposed to any Canadian government aid to Guatemala until Human Rights violations are ended and the fate of the 38,000 "DISAPPEARED" is thoroughly investigated. Ask him what criteria is being used to determine whether Canadian aid is going to be renewed? Expect an answer.

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. URRUELA-TRADO
Guatemalan Ambassador to Canada
500 - 294 Albert Street,
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6E6

telling him that you will continue to lobby against Canadian aid to Guatemala until the systematic violations of Human Rights are ended. Ask him to inquire into the present location of the person who is listed here as "DISAPPEARED" and ask to be advised.

Only this letter requires a stamp.

DISAPPEARED IN GUATEMALA
Gerberto Ozaeta, 46 years old,
from Nueva Concepcion, Escuintla,
23 September, 1983

Facts About Guatemala

- Guatemala is the next country south of Mexico.
- 8.3 million people live in Guatemala - 70% are Indians from 22 language groups.
- 2% of the population owns 72% of the land.
- Illiteracy rate is 62%
- 79% of the population earns less than \$300 a year.
- 35,000 children die a year from malnutrition.
- 60% of the National Budget goes to the military.

AS A RESULT OF THE OPPRESSION BY THE MILITARY:

- 50,000 people have been killed since 1979.
- One Million people have become refugees.

YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, CHURCH
ORGANIZATION or CONFERENCE
could become involved as concerned
Canadians - please contact:

C.A.S.C.
Central America Support Committee
Box 1446, Station E,
VICTORIA, B.C. V8W 2X2
478-5550

Canadians Can Help Stop The "Disappearances" In Guatemala



WEAR A GUATEMALAN BRACELET

This bracelet, handwoven by a Guatemalan refugee is accompanied by a tag telling you the name and circumstances of one of the thousands of people "DISAPPEARED" in Guatemala.

Wear the bracelet and tell people that it represents your personal commitment to the restoration of Human Rights in Guatemala.

MORE THAN 38,000 GUATEMALANS



Guatemala has less than 3% of the total population in Latin America

More than 40% of all disappeared victims in Latin America are Guatemalan.

HAVE BEEN “DISAPPEARED”

What Happens When You Are Disappeared?

You can be disappeared at any moment, even in broad daylight, with witnesses all around. Heavily armed plainclothesmen stop you on the street, or take you from your home, field, or office, right in front of your family, friends or co-workers. They force you into an unmarked car with darkened windows. If anyone watching pleads your innocence or tries to stand in the way, he or she is taken, too. The car drives away. You are never heard from again. Officials deny they know where you are. Your family cannot find you. You are disappeared.

Who is Working Inside Guatemala to Find and Free the Disappeared?

G.A.M. Grupo de Apoyo Muto

In June 1984 a small group of courageous Guatemalan citizens stepped forward in public to plead for information about their relatives who had been forcibly disappeared.

Since that time, the **Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo (GAM)** has grown to include members of more than 250 families from every social class and every geographical area in Guatemala. Indian campesinos, urban professionals, students, housewives, factory workers - all have come together to plead for the reappearance alive of their loved ones.

GAM families have met with journalists, petitioned the Guatemalan congress and chief of state, and published open letters to the Guatemalan people. They beg that authorities reveal the whereabouts of their disappeared relatives. Some families do not eat for two days in order to afford the bus fare to attend the weekly meetings in the capital, more than 150 miles away.

What has been the response to their humanitarian pleas?

Just this: rehetoric and denial from government officials, and violence and terrorism from paramilitary death squads.

On March 15, 1985 the Guatemalan Chief of State condemned GAM's petitions saying, "To take steps toward the reappearance alive of the disappeared is a subversive act, and measures will be adopted to deal with it."

Two weeks later, Hector Orlando Gomez Calito, a member of GAM's Directiva, was kidnapped. His tortured body was discovered the next day.

Less than a week later another GAM leader, Maria Rosario Godoy de Cuevas, her brother and her 3 year old son were found dead in their car at the bottom of a ravine on the outskirts of Guatemala City, many miles from the corner pharmacy where they had gone to buy medicine.

Yes, they are afraid. But as one woman told a visiting jurist, *"I am terrified for my life. But every night I cannot sleep, thinking of my husband chained to a wall in some hidden prison. My hope for him is greater than my fear."*

If she is to continue to hope, we must begin to act.

As long as the international community remains silent, the number of people disappeared in Guatemala will continue to grow, and those families who speak out will continue to be persecuted.

We cannot be silent any longer.

