Dear Phone Tree Friends Please consider taking one or more of the actions listed in this memo while Jennifer Harbury's situation remains desperate. Call me with any questions

Thanks!
Judi Paradis
646-3976

/* Written 9:28 PM Oct 31, 1994 by ghrc in igc:reg.guatemala */
/* ---------- "Urgent Action#2 Jennifer Harbury" ---------- */

October 31, 1994

URGENT ACTION

Jennifer Harbury, the wife of Efra!n B maca Vel squez (aka Commandante Everardo), is in the twenty-first day of her hunger strike in Guatemala City. She is asking that the Guatemalan army turn her husband over to the courts for due process. If her husband has been executed, she is asking for his body.

B maca, a commandant in the forces of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), disappeared in combat in the Southwest of Guatemala in March 1992. Strong evidence indicates that, in violation of international law, he was captured, secretly detained, and tortured by the army.

The Guatemalan government maintains that B maca was never captured but was wounded in combat and shot himself through the mouth with his rifle. Last year Harbury opened the Retalhuleu grave where the government said B maca had been buried. The body exhumed was not B maca's.

Government officials now vacillate between saying B maca is dead but they do not know where he is buried; B maca is dead and he is buried in the cemetery in Retalhuleu; and Harbury is welcome to look for B maca in any military base: If she would just tell the Defense Minister where B maca was being held, a search would be conducted.

B maca may well be alive, under torture in a clandestine army detention center. Harbury is concerned that after a peace accord is reached, his usefulness in terms of intelligence and the peace process will be null and he will be executed. Harbury is prepared to die before letting that happen (see attached letter).

Before the hunger strike, during her talks with Guatemalan officials, she said, "We are all chained together by the neck. Everardo is chained to you. I am chained to Everardo. And your pocketbook is chained to me." So far, however, the State Department is not willing to cut Guatemala's funding, in spite of the fact that the Guatemalan government is holding and torturing the husband of a U.S. citizen--or at worst, held him, tortured him, and assassinated him.

Guatemala enjoys broad trade privileges from the United States, the continued execution of labor leaders not withstanding. In 1994, the U.S. spent $18.7 million on joint training exercises with the Guatemalan army. Recently, the Guatemalan government received approximately $4 million from the U.S., destined to support the peace process.

True support of the process might involve demanding that the government negotiate in good faith and respect the Human Rights Accord, instead of holding one of the highest-ranking URNG leaders secretly under torture and continuing to eliminate and oppress others working for change, such as human rights and labor leaders.

The State Department argues that the process of development should not be "held hostage" to individual cases. How many Guatemalan and U.S. individuals