

# URGENT ACTION

## MOTHER AND SON HARASSED BY POLICE IN MEXICO

**A woman has been intimidated, and one of her sons arbitrarily detained, by judicial police officers in the northern state of Chihuahua. This may have been in reprisal for the family's efforts to seek justice for another son, who is in custody.**

**Ignacio Zaid Rosales López** was arrested on 31 May by Chihuahua state judicial police officers (*agentes ministeriales*) who came to his house in the northern town of Ciudad Juárez without a warrant. According to reports received by Amnesty International, the police officers said they were looking for one of his brothers who had supposedly been involved in damage to property: they refused to give him any more details or even the name of the brother they claimed to be searching for.

A short time later, the same police officers went to the house of Ignacio Zaid Rosales López's mother, **Guadalupe Meléndez**. She was in her back yard when three officers came in and demanded, at gunpoint, to know where her son, Ismael, was. She explained that her son did not live with her, but the police officers told her they would arrest her unless she shut up. Two other agents came into the house, and asked where Ismael was. She told them she was a protected witness and that they had to talk to her security escorts from the Federal Attorney General's Office (she is receiving protection over the legal action against her son Israel). On leaving the house to look for the security escorts, she saw that her other son, Ignacio Zaid Rosales López, was being held in one of the four police pickup trucks outside. She demanded to know why he had been detained, but the police agents refused to say and immediately drove off.

Guadalupe Meléndez went to various agencies to look for her son Ignacio Zaid Rosales López. The State Public Prosecutor's Office (Fiscalía General de Justicia del estado) said there was no record of his detention. She then went to the Extortion Unit where she was informed that Ignacio Zaid Rosales López had been taken back to his home without ever officially having been arrested. On returning home, she found Ignacio Zaid Rosales López who informed his mother he had been intimidated and that he had been hit in the ribs.

### Please write immediately in Spanish, English or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to guarantee that Guadalupe Meléndez and her sons will not be ill-treated in any way, and ensure that they are not harassed or arbitrarily detained;
- Urging them to investigate the harassment of Guadalupe Meléndez, and the arbitrary detention of her son Ignacio Zaid Rosales López and bring anyone responsible for illegal action by state judicial police to justice.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 18 JULY 2012 TO:

#### Minister of the Interior

Dr. Alejandro Poiré Romero  
Secretaría de Gobernación  
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez  
Delegación Cuauhtémoc  
México D.F., C.P.06600, México  
Fax: +52 55 5093 3416  
Email: [secretario@segob.gob.mx](mailto:secretario@segob.gob.mx)

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

#### Governor of Chihuahua State

Lic. César Duarte Jáquez  
Palacio de Gobierno, Aldama #901 y  
Venustiano Carranza, Col. Centro,  
Chihuahua, Chi., C.P. 31000, México  
Fax: +52 614 429 3300 (when voice  
answers, ask for "Tono de fax" and dial  
11105)

Email:

[despachodelejecutivo@hotmail.com](mailto:despachodelejecutivo@hotmail.com)

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

#### **And copies to:**

#### Human rights NGO

Centro de Derechos Humanos "Miguel  
Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C. (Centro Prodh)

Email:

[internacional@centroprodh.org.mx](mailto:internacional@centroprodh.org.mx)

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The family believe the events of 31 May were connected with the case of Guadalupe Meléndez's son Israel Azarte, who is in prison accused of involvement in the 2010 mass murder of 15 people, mainly teenage students, in Villas de Salvarcar, Ciudad Juarez. He has protested his innocence since he was arrested, and forced to confess under torture. The family and legal representatives have campaigned for a full investigation of his torture and for the statement obtained through torture to be excluded as evidence from his trial. The National Human Rights Commission (Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos) has confirmed the torture.

Guadalupe Meléndez has been assigned police escorting by the office of the Attorney General of the Republic since March 2010 as a protected witness in relation to the case of his son Israel Arzate.

Name: Ignacio Zaid Rosales López, Guadalupe Meléndez and family members

Gender m/f: m & f

UA: 163/12 Index: AMFR 41/040/2012 Issue Date: 6 June 2012