

UA 12/02

Fear for

**MEXICO Francisco Cerezo Contreras (m)  
Emiliana Cerezo Contreras (f), his sister  
Members of the Cerezo Contreras family.**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Francisco Cerezo Contreras and his sister, Emiliana Cerezo Contreras who have reportedly received death threats and been subjected to intimidating surveillance.

While visiting Unión Hidalgo and Juchitán in Oaxaca State, between 28 December 2001 and 4 January 2002, Francisco and Emiliana Cerezo were reportedly watched by a number of different unknown individuals who followed them on foot and by car. They were even watched as they boarded the bus taking them back to Mexico City.

On 4 January 2002, when Francisco and Emiliana Cerezo Contreras got home, they found several threatening voice messages on their answer phone. One of the messages was a death threat to the whole Cerezo Contreras family which reportedly said: "*Solo quiero decirles a esos hijos de su pinche madre, a toda la familia que dice eso, que los voy a ir a matar*". "I only want to tell those sons of a bitch, to all the family who says these things, I'm going to kill you"

Francisco and Emiliana Cerezo Contreras are both members of the *Comite Amplio por la Libertad de los Presos Politicos y de Conciencia 'Hermanos Cerezo'*, The Committee for the Release of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of Conscience 'Hermanos Cerezo'. The organisation campaigns for the release of their three brothers, Alejandro, Hector and Antonio Cerezo Contreras and one other individual who were arrested on 13 August 2001 and are currently in detention facing terrorism charges. They were detained in a joint operation between agents of the *Procuraduria General de la Republica (PGR)*, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic and members of the Mexican army. The men made allegations that they were tortured at the time of their detention.

The family believe that the death threat was particularly significant as the caller reportedly made reference to a phone number that their brothers use to call the family from jail, indicating that the callers had access to restricted information.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Francisco Cerezo Contreras, Emiliana Cerezo Contreras and the Cerezo Contreras family;
- urging the authorities to carry out a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into the threats received by the family and the intimidating surveillance they were subject to in Oaxaca. The results of the investigation should be made public, and those responsible brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to guarantee the safety of Francisco Cerezo Contreras, Emiliana Cerezo Contreras and their family.

**APPEALS TO:**

**Attorney General of the Republic**

General Rafael Marcial Macedo de la Concha  
Procurador General de la Republica  
Procuraduría General de la República  
Reforma Norte esq.Violeta 75  
Col. Guerrero  
Delegación Cuauhtémoc  
México D.F., C.P. 06300  
MEXICO

**Telegrams: Procurador General de la República, México D.F., México**  
**Fax: (+525 55) 346 0983 / 626 4419 / 346 0906**  
**Salutation: Señor Procurador General / Dear Attorney General**

**Minister of the Interior**

Lic. Santiago Creel  
Secretario de Gobernación  
Secretaría de Gobernación  
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez  
Delegación Cuauhtémoc  
México D.F., C.P.06600  
MEXICO

**Telegrams: Secretario de Gobernacion, Mexico D.F., Mexico**  
**Fax: (+525 55) 703 2171 / 546 5350 / 546 7388**  
**Salutation: Señor Secretario / Dear Minister**

**President of the National Commission of Human Rights**

Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández  
Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDH)  
Periférico Sur 3469, 5o piso  
Col. San Jerónimo Lídice  
México D.F. 10200  
MÉXICO

**Telegrams: Presidente de la CNDH, Mexico D.F., Mexico**  
**Faxes: (+525 55) 135 0595 / 681 7199 / 668 0767**  
**Salutation: Señor Presidente / Dear President**

**COPIES TO:**

Liga Mexicana por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (Limeddh)  
Avenida Azcapotzalco 275, Col. Claveria  
México D.F. 02090  
MEXICO  
**Fax: (+525 55) 399 1336**

and to diplomatic representatives of MEXICO accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 February 2002.