

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/04/96

UA 27/96

Threats / Fear for safety

2 February 1996

**MEXICOPatricia Ibarra Torres (f), student, human rights activist  
Vervónica Ibarra Torres (f), human rights activist  
and other members of the *Comité Nacional Independiente (CNI)***

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On 24 January 1996 Patricia Ibarra Torres, student and worker for an indigenous community centre for literacy, was harassed by four unidentified men outside her family home in Mexico City. They took several photographs of her, her house and other neighbours' houses and repeatedly asked about her family. Later the same day the men returned to the area and waited for an hour in front of the house.

Patricia's mother, Verónica Ibarra Torres is the accountant at *the Comité Nacional Independiente Pro-defensa de Presos, Perseguidos, Detenidos-Desaparecidos y Exiliados Políticos (CNI)*, Independent National Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners, Persecuted, Detained-"Disappeared" and Exiles, a Mexican NGO working on behalf of the "disappeared" and other victims of human rights violations. The events of 24 January are the latest in a series of recent threats against the organization and its members.

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Patricia Ibarra Torres, her family and members of CNI.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International fears for the safety of those active in promoting and protecting human rights in Mexico in view of the increasing reports of threats and harassment (see UA 12/96, AMR 41/02/96, 22 January 1996 and UA 09/96, AMR 41/01/96, 16 January 1996).

Amnesty International has repeatedly expressed its concerns to the Mexican authorities about the lack of safeguards provided to protect human rights activists. The organization believes that the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators of these threats is the main reason for the persistence of these abuses against human rights activists (see UA 203/95, AMR 41/19/95, 18 August 1995; UA 157/95, AMR 41/14/95, 4 July and UA 105/95, AMR 41/11/95, 3 May).

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Patricia Ibarra Torres, her family and members of the *Comité Nacional Independiente* apparently threatened because of their work on human rights;
- calling for immediate measures to guarantee their safety;
- urging a prompt and thorough investigation into the threats and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take measures to ensure the safety of all human rights workers in Mexico.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

1) President of the Republic  
Lic. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León  
Presidente de la República  
Palacio Nacional

06067, México D.F., MEXICO

**Telegrams: Presidente Zedillo, México D.F., México**

**Telexes: 170937 sppnme; 1774468 sppnme**

**Faxes: + 52 5 271 1764**

**Salutation: Sr. President/Dear President**

2) Minister of the Interior

Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor

Secretario de la Gobernación

Secretaría de la Gobernación

Bucareli 99, 1er piso

Col. Juárez

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**Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México D.F., México**

**Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350**

**Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

1) Weekly magazine

Sr. Editor

La Jornada

Balderas 68

06050, México D.F., MÉXICO

2) Human right organization

Comite Nacional Independiente

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MEXICO

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 25 March 1996.