

URGENT ACTION

REPRISAL FEARS FOR STUDENTS SEEKING JUSTICE

Students who suffered torture and ill-treatment at the hands of state and federal police during a protest in Guerrero state, Mexico, are filing a complaint with federal and state prosecutors. There are fears that the complaint may lead to reprisals against them.

On 12 December 2011, two students were shot and killed and a petrol station employee died of burns when police opened fire on unarmed students protesting outside the state capital, Chilpancingo. Fourteen other people were injured and 24 arrests were made. According to testimony as well as film and medical evidence, at least 14 of the students detained were beaten and kicked by federal police and state judicial police. One of the detainees, **Gerardo Torres Pérez** was then apparently tortured by state judicial police in order to force him to falsely implicate himself in the shooting of fellow students. All the detainees were released the following day.

On 19 January, several of the students and their human rights lawyers will file criminal complaints for their ill-treatment by Federal and State Police with the Federal Attorney General's Office (Procuraduría General de la República, PGR) and the Guerrero State Attorney General's Office (Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado, PGJE). Gerardo Torres Pérez will file a complaint for torture by state judicial police with the PGJE. Amnesty International is concerned that the students will face intimidation or threats following the complaints as victims and witnesses are often deterred from pursuing justice in Mexico due to threats and intimidation.

The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), a governmental human rights ombudsman, has issued preliminary findings of its enquiry into the policing operation, concluding that excessive and unjustified force was used by federal and state police during the protest. The CNDH indicated that state judicial police were responsible for the deliberate shooting of students and the torture of Gerardo Torres Perez. The CNDH also found that federal and state police were responsible for the ill-treatment of detainees during and after arrest. Several state police officers have been placed in administrative detention (*arraigo*), but no state or federal police offices have as yet been charged in connection with human rights violations. The CNDH ordered protection measures for the victims.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Express concern for the safety of those victims who have filed a complaint against torture and ill-treatment and demand the authorities guarantee their safety in accordance with their wishes to enable them to continue criminal proceedings without fear of reprisals;
- Urge a prompt, full and impartial investigation into the violent operation on 12 December, including the full cooperation of federal, state and municipal police and ensure those responsible are brought to justice;

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 MARCH 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 3414
 Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Minister

Governor of Guerrero state

Lic. Ángel Heladio Aguirre Rivero
 Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero
 Palacio de Gobierno Edificio Centro 2do.
 Piso, Col. Ciudad de los Servicios
 C.P. 39074 Chilpancingo
 Guerrero, México
 Fax: +52 747 471 9956
 Email: contacto@guerrero.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Governor

Attorney General of the Republic

Marisela Morales Ibáñez
 Paseo de la reforma 211-213
 Col. Cuauhtémoc, México D.F., C.P.
 06500, México
 Fax: +52 55 5346 0908 (keep trying and ask for "fax")
 Email: ofproc@pgr.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Attorney General
And copies to:
 Human rights organization:
 tlachinollan.difusion@gmail.com

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

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation
 Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The chaotic police operation to break up the student protest on 12 December highlighted the continuing grave failings in federal, state and municipal police practices which frequently violate human rights and lack command and control, coordination or accountability. The compelling evidence that immediately came to light in this case has allowed victims to present criminal complaints. However, victims of torture and ill-treatment are often denied access to justice due to ineffective investigations. Victims and witnesses can also face threats and intimidation to deter them from pursuing justice.

Name: Gerardo Torres Pérez and other students

Gender m/f: Gerardo Torres Pérez is male; the other students are both male and female

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