

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/11/00

16 March 2000

Further information on UA 27/00 (AMR 41/03/00, 3 February 2000) and follow-up (AMR 41/05/00, 8 February 2000) - Fear for safety

MEXICO Striking students of the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* (UNAM), National Autonomous University of Mexico

About 100 students involved in the 10-month strike at the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* (UNAM), National Autonomous University of Mexico, remain in custody in the *Reclusorio Norte*, a prison in Mexico City.

Two large-scale police operations in early February resulted in over 900 arrests. Of those still detained, 85 were arrested at the *Escuela Nacional Preparatoria 3* on 1 February 2000 and 19 at the *Ciudad Universitaria*, the main university campus, on 6 February. Hundreds of others released on bail still face criminal charges.

Amnesty International is concerned that internationally recognised fair trial procedures have not been followed. This includes students who were arrested without warrants, detained incommunicado for the first 24 hours, denied prompt access to family members and lawyers of their own choice, and not informed promptly and clearly of charges against them.

There is still confusion surrounding the exact nature of the charges against those in detention, though a number reportedly face charges of terrorism and rebellion (*terrorismo y motín*). Amnesty International is concerned at the political nature of these charges and the apparent lack of *prima facie* evidence to substantiate them.

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

- reminding the authorities of their obligation to guarantee internationally accepted fair trial procedures;
- expressing concern at reports that some students may face charges of terrorism and rebellion for which there appears to be a lack of *prima facie* evidence to substantiate them.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Diódoro Carrasco Altamirano

Secretario de Gobernación

Secretaría de Gobernación

Bucareli 99, 1er. piso

Col. Juárez, C.P.06699

México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: Secretario de Gobernación, México D.F., Mexico

Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350

Salutation: Señor Secretario / Dear Minister

Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo
Procurador General de la República
Av Reforma, esq. Violeta
Col Guerrero
México D.F., CP 06300
MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador General República, México D.F., Mexico

Faxes: + 52 5 346 0906

Salutation: Señor Procurador General / Dear Attorney General

National Commission for Human Rights

Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández
Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDH)
Av. Chapultepec N° 49, 1er Piso, Centro, Cuauhtémoc,
06040 México, DF, Mexico

Faxes: + 52 5 681 84 90

Salutation: Estimado Dr. Soberanes / Dear Dr. Soberanes

COPIES 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 27 April 2000.