

URGENT ACTION

TWO MEN ALLEGEDLY EXECUTED BY MEXICAN ARMY

The Mexican Army killed two young men in disputed circumstances in the town of Nuevo Laredo. Relatives are seeking a full investigation into evidence that the two men were tortured and summarily executed. Family members and witnesses are at risk of reprisals.

On 18 March, **Alfredo Ruiz Rojas** (23) and a teenager were shot and killed by members of the Mexican Army near the Valles Elizondo neighbourhood, outside Nuevo Laredo on the US border. The Tamaulipas State Attorney General's Office (*Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado*, PGJE) reported that the men had been killed by the army after a shootout, and arms had been discovered in their vehicle. The Federal Attorney General's Office opened an enquiry on the basis of the military report of the incident.

Later that day, a witness informed Alfredo Ruiz Galaraz (father of Alfredo Ruiz Rojas) that his son and the teenager had been summarily executed by the military after being tortured. Alfredo Ruiz Galaraz visited Valles Elizondo and spoke to the witness who confirmed seeing soldiers detain the two victims. The witness reported coming across the soldiers in surrounding scrubland; the soldiers repeatedly beat the victims with military weapons then shot them. The soldiers detained the witness, beat him and warned him that he would suffer the same fate if he reported what he had seen. He was then released.

After identifying his son's body at the PGJE morgue, Alfredo Ruiz Galarza filed a complaint with the Human Rights Committee of Nuevo Laredo (*Comite de Derechos Humanos Nuevo Laredo*) and the National Human Rights Commission (*Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos*, CNDH). Alfredo Ruiz Rojas' family reported that their son's body showed evidence of torture. The CNDH subsequently visited Nuevo Laredo in order to conduct an autopsy and interview witnesses. The CNDH has been asked to request that authorities provide protection measures for the family, witnesses and the human rights organization – all of who may be at risk of reprisals.

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

- Calling for the authorities to guarantee the safety of the family of Alfredo Ruiz Rojas, witnesses and the local human rights organization;
- Calling for a full, prompt impartial investigation under the sole charge of civilian judicial authorities into the alleged torture and summary execution of Alfredo Ruiz Rojas and the teenager;
- Calling for results of the investigation by prosecutors and CNDH to be made public at the earliest possible moment and, where there is evidence of human rights violations, for all those responsible to be brought to justice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 9 MAY 2013 TO:

Attorney General of the Republic

Jesús Murillo Karam
Paseo de la reforma 211-213
Col. Cuauhtémoc, Distrito Federal.
C.P. 06500, México
Fax: +52 55 5346 0908 (keep trying, and ask for "fax")
Email: ofproc@pgr.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Minister of Interior

Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong
Secretario de Gobernacion
Bucareli 99, col. Juárez, Cuauhtemoc,
Distrito Federal, C.P. 6600, México
Fax: +52 55 5093 3414
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:

Secretary of Defense

Gral. Salvador Cienfuegos Zepeda
Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra 596, Col.
Irrigación, Miguel Hidalgo,
Distrito Federal, C.P. 11500, México
Email: scienfuegosz@sedena.gob.mx

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

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

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Several regions of Mexico, including Tamaulipas State, have suffered extremely high levels of criminal violence as the government has deployed military forces to combat criminal gangs and drug cartels fighting to control different regions. More than 60,000 people have been killed in the resulting violence and more than 25,000 people have been reported missing or abducted. The majority of grave crimes are committed by criminal gangs, but members of the security forces have repeatedly been implicated of operating in collusion with these groups. There has been a steep rise in allegations of grave human rights violations committed by military and police, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture and arbitrary detention, but virtually no one has been held accountable for these abuses. Abductions and killings are routinely attributed to criminal gangs and not fully investigated to establish the circumstances of the crimes or whether police and security forces are implicated in abuses, such as excessive use of force or summary executions. CNDH conducts independent enquiries when relatives or victims file complaints or present evidence of federal police and security forces involvement, but many relatives are too afraid to file complaints and CNDH enquiries rarely result in justice for perpetrators of human rights violations. The new government of Enrique Peña Nieto has made commitments to end human rights violations, including torture, but has yet to demonstrate that such abuses will not be tolerated.

Name: Alfredo Ruiz Rojas and teenager

Gender m/f: m

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