

4 May 2000

Further information on UA 03/00 (AMR 41/01/00, 6 January 2000) - Fear for safety / Death threats

MEXICO Juan de Dios Hernández Monge (note new spelling), lawyer

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Lawyer Juan de Dios Hernández Monge has been threatened and assaulted for his work representing detained university students. Amnesty International is concerned for his safety.

Juan de Dios Hernández Monge is acting on behalf of the *Comité General de la Huelga* (CGH), General Strike Council - the student body which led a nine month strike and many of whose members are in detention or on bail facing criminal charges. On 3 May he was waiting at a traffic light when a man approached his car, identified him as the CGH lawyer and said, "Don't be a wanker, get out of the car" ("*No te hagas el pendejo, ya bájale*"), then hit him on the head with a stick or bar, cutting the lawyer's forehead.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Students from the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* (UNAM), National Autonomous University of Mexico, went on strike on 22 April 1999 in protest at proposed reforms to the university system. Amnesty International documented several attacks on students during the strike (see News Service 109/99, AMR 41/09/99, 4 June 1999 and UA 278/99, AMR 41/28/99, 22 October 1999 and follow up). On 1 and 6 February 2000 police arrested almost 1000 striking students. Most were released without charge, while others were charged and released on bail. By the end of April nine students remained in custody facing criminal charges, among them several CGH leaders.

On 2 January 2000, Juan de Dios Hernández Monge and Pilar Noriega García, who were acting on behalf of some UNAM students, received verbal death threats, and Juan de Dios Hernández Monge was hit in the face. Although an official investigation was opened, those responsible have not so far been brought to justice. At the end of March another lawyer acting in defence of detained UNAM students, Leonel Guadalupe Rivero Rodríguez, reported facing intimidatory acts and an apparent attempt to steal computer files relating to the UNAM student cases (see UA 78/00, AMR 41/17/00, 5 April 2000).

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

- expressing concern at the reported attack on a lawyer representing detained UNAM students, Juan de Dios Hernández Monge, on 3 May 2000;
- calling on the authorities to ensure the safety of Juan de Dios Hernández Monge and other lawyers working in defence of UNAM students facing criminal charges;
- reminding the authorities of their responsibility to ensure lawyers representing people charged with criminal offences are free from intimidation in the exercise of their professional duties;
- calling for a prompt and thorough investigation into the attack, asking for the results to be made public and those responsible to be brought to justice.

#### 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 7 03 21 71**

**Salutation: Señor Secretario / Dear Minister**

Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo  
Procurador General de la República  
Av Reforma, esq. Violeta  
Col Guerrero, CP 06300  
México D.F., 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,  
CP 06040, México D.F., MEXICO

**Faxes: + 52 5 681 8490 (If voice answers, please ask: "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor)**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr. Soberanes / Dear Dr. Soberanes**

**COPIES TO:**

Non-governmental Human Rights Organization

Liga Mexicana por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos  
Av. Azcapotzalco 275, Col. Claveria, CP 02090,  
Mexico D.F., 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 15 June 2000.