

PUBLIC

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Fear for

MEXICO

Street children in Toreo de Cuatro Caminos, Mexico City

Killed: José Manuel Luna Alonso (17)

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the street children of the Toreo de Cuatro Caminos district of Mexico City, following recent reports that soldiers have killed one child and shot at and threatened others.

Street children often spend the night under a pedestrian overpass in the Toreo de Cuatro Caminos district. On 25 September 1999 two soldiers shot and killed a dog which barked at them as they passed it on the bridge. A number of the street children saw this and followed them, protesting at what they had done.

In return both soldiers reportedly began to fire at the feet of one in the group, an 18-year-old girl who was six months pregnant. José Manuel Luna Alonso, who was reportedly unarmed, followed the soldiers as they headed back towards the military camp. The soldiers turned and shot him in the head, killing him.

At the same pedestrian overpass on 27 January 1999 two uniformed soldiers drew their guns and chased three street children, who managed to escape. However Amnesty International fears that further soldiers will come back to threaten or harm these children.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The killing of José Manuel Luna Alonso follows the reported deaths of other street children in the Toreo district, including "El Gordo", who was run over while trying to escape a police raid. The raid was part of an on-going police operation to rid the district of street-children. The death of "El Gordo" has apparently not been investigated yet.

Amnesty International has long documented various forms of human rights abuses against children by the Mexican authorities. To this end UNICEF, in its June 1999 report on Mexico (UNICEF information on Mexico : Mexico. 10/06/99. (CRC) (Report of UN Agencies/Organs)) stated:

"Although there have been partial reforms to specific laws, Mexico's legislation has yet to be brought into line with the requirements of the Convention on the Rights of the Child."

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

- calling for the authorities to guarantee the safety of street children of the Toreo de Cuatro Caminos district of Mexico City;
- calling for a full and independent investigation into the killing of José Manuel Luna Alonso, and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- calling on the authorities to implement mechanisms designed to uphold the rights enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child, and to urgently review the recommendation made to Mexico in 1994 by the United Nations Committee for the Rights of the Child in its concluding observations on Mexico (Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child : Mexico. 07/02/94. CRC/C/15/Add.13.) regarding "children living and/or working in the streets."

APPEALS TO:

Minister for Public Security for Mexico City

Lic. Alejandro Hertz Manero.
Secretario de Seguridad Pública del DF.
Liverpool 136 P.B.
Col Juárez.
México, D.F. C.P. 06600
MEXICO

Salutation: Sr Secretario/Dear Minister

Fax: + 52 5 208 6440

Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar
Señor Procurador General de Justicia de la República
Procuraduría General de Justicia de la República
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Telegrams: Procuraduría General de la República, México DF, México

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Salutation: Sr. Procurador / Dear Attorney

Minister of Defence

Lic. Enrique Cervantes Aguirre
Secretario de la Defensa Nacional
Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional
Blvd. Manuel Vila Camacho y
Avda. Industria Militar
Col. Lomas de Sotelo
11640 México D.F.
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Salutation: Señor Secretario/Dear Mr Secretary

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Commission of Mexico City

Dr Luis Barrera Solórzano
Presidente de la CEDHDF
Av. Chapultepec 49, Col. Centro
México DF, CP 06040
MEXICO

Fax: + 525 687 7199

Salutation: Estimado Dr. / Dear Dr.

Human Rights organization

Centro de Derechos Humanos "Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez"
Serapio Rendón 57-B, Col. San Rafael
México DF., CP 06470
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 12 November 1999.