

17 October 2002

**Further information on UA 18/02 (AMR 41/004/2002, 17 January 2002) - Fear for Safety**

**MEXICO** Pedro Raúl López (m), President of *Comisiones Estatales de Derechos Humanos* (CEDH) Chiapas State Human Rights Commission

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At 11pm on 11 October, Pedro Raúl López, President of *Comisión Estatal de Derechos Humanos* (CEDH) Chiapas State Human Rights Commission, was allegedly stopped in his car by three armed men driving a pick-up truck near his home. The men forced him to get out of the car and beat him about his head and body. At the time, the three men reportedly warned Pedro Raúl López to stop sending recommendations to the State government.

The Attorney General of Chiapas has allegedly dismissed reports of the attack as false. He suggested Pedro Raúl López received his injuries as a result of a family argument.

The day before the attack, the CEDH made public a recommendation to both the Attorney General of Chiapas, and the Secretary for Public Security. It called for an investigation into judicial irregularities in the cases of two former public officials.

Pedro Raúl López has been involved in investigating human rights violations by public officials in Chiapas state including the alleged torture of indigenous people. He has been threatened and harassed since he took office in June 2001. On 14 January 2002 shots were reportedly fired at his house in the La Salle quarter of the town of San Cristóbal. The investigation into this incident has not yet been completed, and questions have been raised about the way it has been conducted.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or in your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Pedro Raúl López after the attack against him on 11 October;
- calling for an immediate, independent and impartial investigation into the alleged attack on Pedro Raúl López, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- calling for a review of the investigation into the previous incident of intimidation of Pedro Raúl López in January 2002;
- urging the authorities to stop defamatory statements against Pedro Raul López;
- reminding the authorities that the UN *Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties* recognizes the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders and their right to carry out their activities without any restrictions of fear of reprisals.

**APPEALS TO:**

Attorney General of Chiapas

Mariano Herrán Salvatti

Procurador General de Justicia del Estado de Chiapas

Libramiento Norte s/n

Infonavit el Rosario

Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas

México

**Telegram:** Procurador, Chiapas, México  
**Fax:** + 52 9(61) 616 57 24  
**Salutation:** Dear Attorney General / Señor Procurador

Governor of Chiapas

Pablo Salazar Mendiguchia  
Gobernador del Estado de Chiapas  
Palacio de Gobierno del Estado de Chiapas  
Av. Central y Primera Oriente  
Colonia Centro, C.P. 29009  
Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas  
México

**Telegram:** Gobernador, Chiapas, México  
**Fax:** + 52 9(61) 612 09 17  
**Salutation:** Dear Governor / Señor Gobernador

Attorney General of the Republic

General Rafael Marcial Macedo de la Concha  
Procurador General de la República  
Procuraduría General de la República  
Reforma Norte esq. Violeta 75  
Col. Guerrero, Delegación Cuauhtemoc  
México

**Telegrams:** Procurador General, México D. F., México  
**Fax:** (+52 55) 5346 2776  
**Salutation:** Señor Procurador General/Dear Attorney General

President of the National Commission of Human Rights

Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández  
Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDH)  
Periférico Sur 3469, 5o piso  
Col. San Jerónimo Lídice  
México D.F. 10200  
MÉXICO

**Telegrams:** Presidente de la CNDH, Mexico D.F., Mexico  
**Faxes:** (+525 55) 135 0595 / 681 7199 / 668 0767  
**Salutation:** Señor Presidente / Dear President

**COPIES TO:**

Centro de Derechos Humanos  
"Fray Bartolome de las Casas"  
Calle Cuauhtémoc 12, Colonia Centro Histórico  
San Cristóbal de las Casas,  
CP 29200, Chiapas  
MEXICO

**Fax:** + 52 9(67) 67 8 35 51

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 28 November 2002.