

PUBLIC

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Fear for

MEXICOMarco Antonio ABADICIO MAYO, member of the *Organización Campesina Sierra del Sur* (OCSS), Southern Sierra Peasant Organization

Guerrero state peasant activist Marco Antonio Abadicio Mayo was shot and wounded on 21 July, in what appears to have been an attempted political killing.

He was ambushed late at night by a group of men who fired at him, hitting him in the chest and arm. He managed to run some distance before he lost consciousness. He was later treated at the Acapulco General Hospital. Four days after the attack, the police reportedly still had not visited the scene of the crime, near the community of Atoyaquillo, in the municipality of Coyuca de Benítez.

Marco Antonio Abadicio Mayo, a member of the *Organización Campesina Sierra del Sur* (OCSS), Southern Sierra Peasant Organization, has noticed people keeping watch outside his house since 12 January, when he was reportedly stopped by soldiers and police in the nearby community of Pueblo Viejo. They beat and threatened him but finally released him without charge.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

OCSS members have frequently suffered gross human rights violations at the hands of the security forces and so-called paramilitary groups in Guerrero state, including "disappearances", torture and killings. In July 1995 17 peasants, many of them OCSS members, were killed by Guerrero state police and government officials in the Aguas Blancas massacre. The armed opposition group *Ejército Popular Revolucionario* (EPR), Revolutionary Popular Army, made its first appearance exactly a year later.

Since then the security forces' presence in the state has increased steadily, as have reports of human rights violations, mainly against indigenous peasants. On 7 June 1998 11 people died in the El Charco massacre, and more than twenty killings of peasant activists in Guerrero were reported in the first three months of 2000 alone. Most recently, two OCSS members were killed in Coyuca de Benítez on 21 April.

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

- expressing concern at the attempt to kill OCSS member Marco Antonio Abadicio Mayo on 21 July in the community of Atoyaquillo, Coyuca de Benítez, Guerrero state;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee his safety;
- urging the authorities to carry out an immediate, independent and full investigation into the attempt to kill him, to make the results public and to bring those responsible to justice;
- emphasising that the failure to effectively investigate all human rights abuses creates a cycle of impunity and encourages further violations.

APPEALS TO:

Please note that fax numbers can be difficult to obtain and fax machines are often switched off outside office hours. If you do not get through, please try again later. If a voice answers, say, "el tono de fax, por favor."

Attorney General of the Republic

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Procurador General de la República
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Telegrams: Procurador General República, D.F., México
Faxes:+ 52 5 346 0906
E-mails:ofproc@pgr.gob.mx
Salutation:Señor Procurador General/ Dear Attorney General

Governor of Guerrero state
Lic. René Juárez Cisneros
Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero
Palacio de Gobierno, segundo piso
Plaza Central, Primer Congreso de Anahuac
Col. Centro, Chilpancingo 39000
Guerrero. MÉXICO
Telegrams: Gobernador, Guerrero, México
Faxes: + 52 747 28319
Salutation: Señor Gobernador / Dear Governor

Governmental National Human Rights Commission
Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández,
Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDH),
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Salutation:Estimado Dr. Soberanes / Dear Dr. Soberanes

COPIES TO:

Non-governmental human rights organization
La Liga Mexicana por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (Limeddh)
Avenida Azcapotzalco 275, Col. Claveria
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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 8 September 2000.