

PUBLIC

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Fear for

MEXICO Francisco Castellanos Javier (m), journalist

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of journalist Francisco Castellanos following reports of threats against him by the ministerial police in the state of Michoacán.

The threats followed publication of an article in *El Mañana de Nuevo Laredo* newspaper on 30 October, in which Francisco Castellanos, correspondent for *Proceso* magazine, made allegations of corruption against a former attorney general of Michoacán and several members of the state ministerial police. The article was widely circulated in a number of newspapers throughout the country and the police have lodged a complaint for defamation against Francisco Castellanos. He has also reportedly been told that the coordinator for the Ministerial Police, has threatened to take revenge against him for writing the article.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mexican journalists often face attacks and death threats because of their work, and many live in fear of reprisals from people or organizations they have written about. The authorities rarely investigate these cases effectively, leaving the perpetrators to repeat their crimes.

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

- expressing concern about the threats to the physical safety of Francisco Castellanos;
- calling on the authorities to take immediate steps to guarantee his safety;
- urging an immediate, full and impartial investigation into the threats against him and for the results of the investigation to be made public;
- citing the recommendation of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of September 1988 that the Mexican authorities "adopt the necessary measures to punish the perpetrators of crimes committed against persons exercising the right to freedom of expression, including a speedy, effective and impartial investigation into complaints of harassment involving journalists ..." (Report on the situation of Human Rights in Mexico, OEA/Ser.L/V/II.100, paragraph 671).

APPEALS TO:

Attorney General of the State of Michoacán

Lic. Jorge Eduardo García Torres
Procurador del Estado de Michoacán
Perférico Independencia, No. 5000
Morelia 58110
Estado de Michoacán
México

Telegram: Procurador General, Michoacán, Mexico

Fax: (+52 443) 316 3808

Salutation: Señor Procurador General/ Dear Attorney General

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 for 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 DF., 10200

México

Telegrams:Presidente de la CNDH, México D.F., México

Fax: (+52 55) 5668 0767 (There may be a message in Spanish. Just send the fax after the tone)

E-mail:correo@cndh.org.mx

Salutation: Señor Presidente / Dear President

COPIES TO:

Non governmental human rights organization

Academia Mexicana de Derechos Humanos

Filosofía y Letras No. 88,

Col. Copilco Universidad, CP 04360,

Mexico, D.F.

México

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 23 January 2002