

UA 386/00

Death Threat

MEXICOThe wife of Adrián Martín Gómez Pérez (name not known)
Adrián Martín Gómez Pérez (Apodaca prison)
Sergio Bustamante Hernández (Apodaca prison)
Luciano Rodríguez Linares (Topo Chico prison)
and other inmates at Apodaca and Topo Chico prisons

Prison officials have threatened to kill the wife of an inmate if she continues to file complaints on behalf of her husband. Other prisoners are in danger of reprisals for filing complaints against the prison authorities.

Adrián Martín Gómez Pérez is serving a three and a half year sentence in Apodaca prison, Nuevo León state, for possession of arms. On 13 December Adrián Gómez was reportedly taken out of his cell and beaten around the back and head. One guard put a cord around his neck, threatening to strangle him, and pulled the cord until he passed out.

Prison officials told her not to visit her husband, and added that if she continued to file complaints then they would see to it that she had an accident.

Adrián Gómez, Sergio Bustamante Hernández and other inmates have been victimised by the prison authorities for filing complaints about illegal deprivation of freedom, being denied access to telephones and visitors, ill-treatment and threats. The *Comandante de Vigilancia*, prison Head of Security, has told them that none of them will make it out alive.

Amnesty International also fears for the safety of Luciano Rodríguez Linares in Topo Chico prison, also in Nuevo León state who claims he is at risk of reprisals for previously filing a complaint. Luciano may also be being targeted because he is gay. On 7 December he was taken out of his cell and beaten. A prison officer reportedly inserted a finger in his anus, drawing blood. The officer told him he would be killed if he filed a complaint.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There have been frequent reports of torture and ill treatment in prisons in Nuevo León. The state authorities have consistently denied such reports. For example, in October, a prisoner was ill-treated as punishment after human rights activists staged a peaceful protest outside the Topo Chico prison to launch the Amnesty International campaign against torture (see AI Index: AMR 41/57/00, November 2000)

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

- expressing concern at the reported death threat made to the wife of Adrián Martín Gómez Pérez;
- expressing concern at the reported ill-treatment of, and death threats to, Adrián Martín Gómez and Sergio Bustamante Hernández at Apodaca prison, and Luciano Rodríguez Linares and other inmates at Topo Chico prison;
- urging the authorities to take all steps necessary to guarantee the safety of Adrián Martín Gómez Pérez, his wife, Sergio Bustamante Hernández and other inmates of Apodaca prison, and Luciano Rodríguez Linares and other inmates of Topo Chico prison;

-calling on the authorities to conduct full, prompt, and independent investigations into the allegations, to make the findings public, and to bring those responsible to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Governor Nuevo León state

Lic. Fernando de Jesús Canales Clariond
 Gobernador del Estado de Nuevo León
 Palacio de Gobierno
 Planta Alta
 Calle 5 de Mayo entre Zaragoza y Zuazua
 Monterrey, Nuevo León C.P. 64009
 MÉXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador, Nuevo León, México

Faxes: + 52 8 343 4234

Salutation: Dear Mr. Governor/ Señor Gobernador

E-mail: ebotello@nl.gob.mx

Attorney General Nuevo León state

Lic. José Santos González Suárez
 Procurador del Estado de Nuevo León
 Palacio del Gobierno Planta Baja
 Zaragoza y 5 de Mayo
 Monterrey 64009
 Estabdo de Nuevo León
 MÉXICO

Faxes: + 52 8 342 4893

Salutation: Señor Procurador / Dear Attorney

President of the National Human Rights Commission

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
 MEXICO

Telegrams: Presidente CNDH, DF, México

Faxes: + 52 5 135 0595 (if voice answers please ask; "me puede dar el tono del fax por favor?"

Salutation: Sr Presidente / Dear Mr. President

Email: correo@cndh.org.mx

COPIES TO:

Non-governmental human rights organisation

Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos A.C. (CADHAC)
 Padre Mier 617 Poniente
 Zona Centro, Monterrey,
 Nuevo León 64000
 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 31 January 2001.