

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/76/97

UA 275/97

Fear for safety

15 August 1997

MEXICO Esperanza Cuevas Sandoval (20) (f), pregnant  
Arnulfo Galindo Rico (20)  
José Cleofas Sandoval Hernández (28)  
María de Lourdes Cueva Sandoval (10) (f)  
María Guillermo Domínguez (6)  
Antonio González Parra  
Carmen Vieyra Robles (f)  
María de los Angeles Martínez González (f)  
A four-month-old baby

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The whereabouts of nine members of the indigenous community of Santa María Tequepexpan, Jalisco State, have been unknown since 14 August 1997 when more than 1,000 members of the community were violently evicted from 200 hectares of land that they had reclaimed. According to reports, approximately 400 agents of the police arrived at 2.00am and forcibly ejected the people in an operation which left more than 40 people injured, including children. Amnesty International is deeply concerned for the safety of the nine people listed above, who remain unaccounted for.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The community of Santa María Tequepexpan has been targeted in the past by members of the security forces. On 12 November 1996 members of the police carried out an attack on an area of communal land and, on the following day, a local peasant leader was arbitrarily detained (see UA 263/96, AMR 41/74/96, 14 November 1996). Land dispute is a common source of conflict in Mexico and often involves cases in which members of the security forces operate on behalf of large landowners (see UA 226/97, AMR 41/60/97, 21 July 1997).

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

- calling for the whereabouts of those unaccounted for to be made public immediately;
- calling for a full and prompt investigation to be carried out into the violent eviction of members of the community of Santa María Tequepexpan;
- expressing deep alarm at the general pattern of violence used by members of the security forces on indigenous communities in cases of land disputes.

#### APPEALS TO:

##### 1) Governor of the State of Jalisco

Lic. Alberto Cardenas Jiménez  
Gobernador del Estado de Jalisco  
Pedro Moreno Corona s/n  
44100 Guadalajara, Jalisco  
MEXICO

**Telegrams: Gobernador Cardenas, Jalisco, MEXICO**

**Faxes: + 52 3 640 2892**

**Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/ Dear Governor**

##### 2) Attorney of the State of Jalisco

Lic. Leonardo Larios Gúzman  
Procurador del Estado de Jalisco  
Calzada Independencia Norte N# 778

Sector Libertad  
44100 Guadalajara, Jalisco  
MEXICO

**Telegrams: Sr. Procurador, Jalisco, México**

**Faxes: + 52 3 618 6744 (if voice ask: "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")**

**Salutation: Sr. Procurador/ Dear Attorney**

**COPIES TO:**

1) Comité Nacional Independiente  
Pro-defensa de presos perseguidos y exiliados (CNI)  
Apartado postal 7-887  
06700 México D.F.  
MEXICO  
**Fax: + 52 5 785 9756**

2) Sr. Editor  
La Jornada  
Balderas 68  
06050 Mexico D.F.  
MEXICO  
**Fax: 52 5 521 2763/ 510 1901**

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 30 September 1997.