

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/99/97

UA 339/97 "Disappearance" / Torture / Fear for safety

30 October 1997

MEXICO Aureo Mendoza Rosales
Jesús Leyva

Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of Aureo Mendoza Rosales and Jesús Leyva having just learned of their arbitrary detention and torture by members of the judicial police force in the municipality of Yautepec, Morelos State, on 3 September 1997.

Jesús Leyva was released 24 hours later with the threat that "*si hablas te vamos a matar... así que más vale que te quedes callado y te largues de aquí*", "if you talk we're going to kill you... so it would be better for you to keep quiet and get away from here". Aureo Mendoza Rosales remained in detention. Jesús Leyva reported that they were taken to a cell in the municipality of Yautepec by judicial police agents and subjected to torture methods, including severe beatings and mock executions.

On 22 September, neighbours of Aureo Mendoza Rosales reported to his wife, Sixta Reza Delgado, that he had been seen that day in a car typically used by the judicial police. Since then he has not been seen and his whereabouts remain unknown.

Sixta Reza Delgado filed a complaint before the *Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado*, State Attorney General. However, this was rejected on the grounds that such practices (arbitrary detention and "disappearance") do not occur.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has documented an alarming number of arbitrary detentions and "disappearances" reportedly by members of the security forces in Mexico over the past year. In one of the most recent cases, six young men were violently detained in Mexico City on 8 September 1997. The bodies of all six were subsequently discovered in circumstances indicating that they had been extrajudicially executed (see UA 306/97, AMR 41/89/97, 24 September 1997 and follow-up AMR 41/92/97, 2 October 1997)

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

- calling for the whereabouts of Aureo Mendoza Rosales to be made known immediately to members of his family, and for his safety to be guaranteed;
- calling for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety of Jesús Leyva following death threats made allegedly by members of the judicial police force;
- expressing deep alarm at the arbitrary manner of the detention of Aureo Mendoza Rosales and Jesús Leyva and urging for those responsible to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) Attorney General of the Republic
Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar
Procuraduría General de la República
Paseo de la Reforma y Violeta
Col. Guerrero
06300 México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador República, México D.F., Mexico

Faxes: +52 5 626 4419/4430

Salutation: Sr. Procurador de la República/Dear Attorney

2) Governor of the State of Morelos

Governor of the state of Morelos

Lic. Jorge Carrillo Olea

Gobernador del Estado de Morelos

Palacio de Gobierno Cuernavaca

Estado de Morelos, MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador Carrillo Olea, Morelos, Mexico

Faxes: 52 73 139409

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organisations

1) Centro de Derechos Humanos

"Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C.

Puebla No. 153

Col. Roma, 06700

México D.F. MEXICO

Faxes: +525 208 75 47

2) Acción de los Cristianos para la Abolición de la Tortura

(ACAT)

Interior Zona Comercial C.U.

Apdo 70-634, Adm 70, CP 04511

México D.F. MEXICO

Faxes: +525 264 7332 (if voice ask: "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

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 15 December 1997.