

URGENT ACTION

EIGHT MEN FROM MEXICAN FAMILY "DISAPPEARED"

Eight men from the same family in Chihuahua state, Mexico, have not been heard from since they were detained in June this year by armed uniformed men. There are fears that they are in grave danger and may have been subjected to enforced disappearance by police.

According to eyewitnesses, on 19 June 2011 around 10 unmarked vehicles arrived at the home of the Muñoz family in a neighbourhood of Anahuac, Cuauhtémoc municipality, where the family was holding a gathering. Six heavily armed men wearing black uniforms forced their way into the house and hit and handcuffed the male members of the family. The women present, who had been told to look away, were threatened by the uniformed men. However, they noticed that at least one uniform had "Federal Police" written on it. The armed men communicated with shortwave radios and codes in a manner commonly used by police. The men were taken out and forced into the waiting vehicles then driven off. During the raid, one of the women managed to escape and rang the municipal police emergency line but no assistance was sent. Instead, a municipal police patrol car was seen searching for the woman who had raised the alarm.

Despite efforts by the family to locate the men, they have not been seen since June. When the women tried to report the detentions later the same day at the local police station, municipal police informed them that they knew nothing. The next day, the women went to the local town to file a complaint with the Chihuahua State Attorney General's Office (Fiscalía General de Justicia del Estado), but the evidence of police involvement was left out by officials. The resulting investigation has produced no results. The family has since filed a complaint with the Federal Attorney General's Office (Procuraduría General de la República) and the National Human Rights Commission (Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos), with as yet no results.

The family believe the enforced disappearances were in reprisal for a dispute that had occurred between members of the family and municipal police earlier in the day. According to the family, municipal police had refused to assist when the family reported a man firing a gun outside the family gathering. The dispute resulted in a municipal police officer alleging that a member of the family had struck him.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Express concern at the apparent enforced disappearance by police agents of eight members of the Muñoz family and call for immediate measures to establish their whereabouts and guarantee their safety;
- Call for an independent, impartial and thorough investigation in the detention of the eight men, including evidence of police involvement, and for all those responsible to be brought to justice;
- Call for the families and their legal advisers to be provided full information relating to investigations undertaken;

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 NOVEMBER 2011 TO:

Attorney General of the Republic
Marisela Morales Ibáñez
Av. Paseo de la reforma 211 – 213
Col. Cuauhtémoc, Del. Cuauhtémoc
México D.F., C.P. 06500, México
Fax: +52 55 5346 0908 (ask for "fax")
Email: mmoralesi@pgr.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Governor of Chihuahua state
Lic. César Duarte Jáquez
Palacio de Gobierno, 1er piso, C.
Aldama No. 901
Col. Centro, C.P. 31000
Chihuahua, Chih.
México
Fax: +52 614 429 3300, ext. 11066
Email: despachodelejecutivo@hotmail.com
Salutation: Dear Governor

And copies to:
Federal Secretary of Public Security
Ing. Genaro García Luna
Avenida Constituyentes 947
Col. Belén de las Flores
Álvaro Obregón, México, DF.,
C.P. 1110, México
Fax: +52 55 1103 6189

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since 2007, violence linked to organized crime has spiralled in Mexico. The government attributes more than 35,000 killings during this period to organized crime. President Calderón's administration has attempted to combat the drug cartels by deploying thousands of federal police and over 50,000 military personnel in the worst affected areas. Chihuahua state has witnessed some of the worst violence and reports of human rights violations by military and police have risen sharply, including arbitrary detention, torture, unlawful killings and enforced disappearances. In several instances, some authorities have tried to attribute abuses committed by state agents to criminal gangs.

Names: Toribio Jaime Muñoz González, Guadalupe Muñoz Veleta, Jaime Muñoz Veleta, Oscar Muñoz Veleta, Hugo Muñoz Veleta, Nemesio Solís González, Luis Romo Muñoz y Oscar Guadalupe Cruz Bustos
Gender m/f: m

UA: 285/11 Index: AMR 41/056/2011 Issue Date: 20 September 2011

