

**MEXICO Arturo Requenses Galnares (m), human rights defender**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Arturo Requenses Galnares, a human rights defender for *Acción de los Cristianos para la Abolición de la Tortura*, (ACAT), Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture. He has reportedly received a threatening phone call and has been under surveillance.

On 17 July, a voicemail message was left on Arturo Requenses Galnares' mobile phone, which consisted of a gun being cocked. On 16 July, he had noticed six men in an unidentified vehicle with blacked-out windows driving slowly past his house.

Arturo Requenses Galnares has been working on several torture cases and possible disappearance cases for ACAT. In one instance, he and a relative of someone who has possibly "disappeared" gained access with a judicial order to a unit of the *Agencia Federal de Investigaciones*, (AFI), Federal Agency of Investigations, in order to gain information on the whereabouts of the victim.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Those involved in protecting human rights in Mexico have often been the target of threats and harassment. Their personal safety is often put in danger and those responsible are rarely brought to justice. Digna Ochoa, a prominent human rights lawyer, was shot dead in her office in October 2001. The authorities as yet have not brought anybody to justice for the killing.

Amnesty International is gravely concerned at the threats and attacks against human rights defenders, and fears that this represents a deliberate attempt to stop them from carrying out their legitimate work.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Arturo Requenses Galnares;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee the safety of Arturo Requesens Galnares in accordance with his wishes;
- urging the authorities to carry out a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into the acts of intimidation against Arturo Requenses Galnares, to make the results public and to bring those responsible to justice;
- reminding the authorities that the UN Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties recognizes the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders and their right to carry out their activities without any restrictions or fear of reprisals.

**APPEALS TO:**

Attorney General of the Republic  
General Rafael Marcial Macedo de la Concha  
Procurador General de la Republica  
Procuraduría General de la República  
Reforma Norte esq. Violeta 75  
Col. Gorier  
Delegation Cuauhtémoc  
México D.F., C.P. 06300  
MEXICO

**Telegrams: Procurador General de la República, México D.F.,**  
**Fax: +5255 55 346 0908 (if someone answers please say "me da tono por favor")**

**Salutation: Señor Procurador General / Dear Attorney General**

Head of Government of the Federal District of Mexico

Lic. Andrés Manuel López Obrador  
Jefe de Gobierno del Distrito Federal  
Plaza de la Constitución esq. Pino Suárez  
Piso 1, Col. Centro 06068(5)  
México D.F., MEXICO

**Fax: Jefe Gobierno del Distrito Federal, México DF, México**

**Fax: + 525 55 521 0028**

**Salutation: Señor Jefe de Gobierno / Dear Head of Government**

Attorney General of the Federal District

Mtro. Bernardo Bátiz Vázquez  
Procurador General del Distrito Federal  
Gabriel Hernández #56, 5° piso,  
col. Doctores,  
México D.F. 06720  
MÉXICO

**Fax: Procurador General del Distrito Federal, México DF, México**

**Faxes: + 525 55 345 5529**

**Salutation: Señor Procurador General /Dear Attorney General**

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Santiago Creel  
Secretario de Gobernación  
Secretaría de Gobernación  
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez  
Delegation Cuauhtémoc  
México D.F., C.P. 06600  
MEXICO

**Telegrams: Secretario de Gobernacion, Mexico D.F., Mexico**

**Fax: + 525 55 5093 3414**

**Salutation: Señor Secretario/Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights Organization

Acción de los Cristianos para la Abolición de la Tortura. A.C. - México  
(ACAT)  
Huatusco No. 21 Depto. 502, Col Roma Sur,  
06760 México D.F.  
MEXICO

**Fax: + 52 55 5264 7332**

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 2 September 2002.