

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/51/00

22 September 2000

Further information on Extra 52/00 (AMR 41/25/00, 30 May 2000) and follow-up (AMR 41/29/00, 21 June 2000) - Prisoners of Conscience/Fear for safety

MEXICORodolfo Montiel Flores] Environmentalist prisoners
Teodoro Cabrera García] of conscience

A prison director is reportedly hiring inmates to beat-up two environmental activists detained as prisoners of conscience.

Rodolfo Montiel yesterday complained about the prison director's attempt to contract other inmates to attack them, which he and Teodoro Cabrera learned about on 8 September. The two men, held in the Iguala prison in the state of Guerrero, have reportedly already been tortured in custody and the authorities have on a number of occasions denied their right to receive visitors. This, and the possibility of reprisals against Rodolfo Montiel for reporting the threat, are of serious concern.

Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera are founding members of the Peasant Environmentalist Organization of the Mountains of Petatlán and Coyuca de Catalán. On 2 May 1999 they were arbitrarily detained by members of the 40th Infantry Battalion in the community of Pizotla, in the municipality of Ajuchitlán, Guerrero state. While in the incommunicado custody of the military, the two men were reportedly tortured in order to force them to sign self-incriminating statements. While in prison awaiting trial they were also subjected to intimidation and harassment by prison authorities.

On 28 August 2000 Rodolfo Montiel was sentenced to 6 years and 8 months in jail, and Teodoro Cabrera to 10 years.

Rodolfo Montiel received this year's Goldman Environmental Prize for his environmental campaigning.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera in the light of their treatment by prison authorities, and the apparent attempt by the prison director to hire other inmates to beat them up;
- reminding the authorities that they are responsible for the safety of both men;
- expressing concern at reports of arbitrary restrictions placed on the two men's right to receive visitors;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera, who are detained solely for their peaceful protests against excessive logging in Guerrero state.

APPEALS TO:

Please note that fax numbers can be difficult to obtain and fax machines are often switched off outside office hours (GMT -6 hours). If you do not get through, please try again later. If a voice answers, say, "el tono de fax, por favor".

Governor of Iguala Prison, Guerrero state
Lic. Carlos Coronel Avitia
Director del CERESO de Iguala

Centro de Re-adaptación Social de Iguala
 Carretera Iguala - Tuxpan,
 Iguala, Guerrero 40101, México
Telegrams: Director, CERESO, Iguala, México
Faxes: 52 733 20760
Salutation: Señor Director, Dear Governor

General Director of Prevention and Social Re-adaptation
 Lic. Enrique Pérez Rodríguez
 Director General de Prevención y Readaptación Social
 Río de la Loza 156, 3º piso, Col. Doctores
 Mexico DF 06720
 MEXICO
Telegrams: Director, Prevención Social, DF, México
Faxes: + 52 55 88 73 84
Salutation: Sr Director / Dear Governor

Governor of Guerrero
 René Juárez Cisneros
 Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero
 Palacio de Gobierno 2º piso, plaza central, primer Congreso de Anáhuac,
 Col. Centro, Chilpancingo, Guerrero 39000,
 MEXICO
Telegrams: Gobernador, Guerrero, México
Faxes: + 52 747 3125
Salutation: Sr Gobernador / Dear Governor

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
Salutation: Sr Presidente / Dear Mr President

COPIES TO:

Non-governmental Human Rights organization
 Centro de Derechos Humanos "Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C.
 Serapio Rendon 57-B
 Col. San Rafael
 México D.F. 06470
 MEXICO

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 November 2000.