

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/18/99

28 July 1999

**Further information on UA 144/99 (AMR 41/12/99, 25 June 1999) - Fear for safety / Ill-treatment / Torture and new concern: health concern**

**MEXICO** Rodolfo Montiel Flores - tortured  
Teodoro Cabrera García - tortured

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Amnesty International is very concerned for the health and safety of environmental activists Rodolfo Montiel Flores and Teodoro Cabrera García, who were detained by soldiers on 2 May 1999, in Pizotla, Guerrero State. Both have reportedly been beaten by soldiers and Rodolfo Montiel Flores is apparently in poor health after reportedly being severely tortured in detention.

Rodolfo Montiel was apparently tortured with electric shocks to his genitals and is now suffering from inflamed testicles. He needs urgent medical treatment for this, which Amnesty International believes the prison medical facilities cannot provide.

Rodolfo Montiel told a representative of the official *Comision Nacional de Derechos Humanos* (CNDH), National Commission for Human Rights, who visited him in detention on 4 June, that soldiers had beaten him and Teodoro García to force them to confess to being members of an armed opposition group and to possession of drugs. He also said he was made to pose for photographs holding a rifle and dressed in military clothes. The CNDH have opened an investigation into these allegations.

Both men are presently detained in prison in Iguala, Guerrero State.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The arrest and torture of Rodolfo Montiel Flores and Teodoro Cabrera García comes at a time of increased military activity in the state of Guerrero. Amnesty International has recently documented various allegations of human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions, torture, rape and arbitrary arrests, by the military against members of the indigenous community in the region as part of counter-insurgency operations (see UA 111/99, AMR 41/08/99, 17 May 1999).

In a 1998 report on the human rights situation in Mexico, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights concluded that "the emergence of new dissident armed groups of various types has led not only to a resumption of measures of control by the security forces but also to the indiscriminate repression of social organizations and leaders".

In addition, Amnesty International has long documented the use of torture to extract confessions, especially as part of counter-insurgency operations. Torture extracted confessions, while illegal under the terms of the Federal Law to Prevent and Punish Torture, continue to be accepted by trial judges as admissible evidence.

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

- expressing concern for Rodolfo Montiel Flores who is apparently in poor health after being severely tortured in detention;
- expressing concern at reports that Rodolfo Montiel Flores and Teodoro Cabrera García have been beaten up by soldiers to extract confessions from them;

- asking for a thorough and impartial investigation into their reported torture, with the findings made public and those found responsible brought to justice;
- asking for them to be given access to a doctor;
- urging that no statements made by them under torture are used as evidence against them, and ensuring they have access to a lawyer;
- informing the authorities that you are aware that the CNDH has initiated an investigation into the incident and quoting the number of this investigation: N° 99/1900.

**APPEALS TO:**

Governor of Guerrero State

Lic. René Juárez Cisneros

Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero

Palacio de Gobierno, Plaza Central, Primer Congreso de Anahuac

Chilpancingo 39000, Estado de Guerrero, MEXICO

**Telegrams: Gobernador Estado, Guerrero, México**

**Faxes: + 52 747 10304 (if voice, ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")**

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

Attorney General of Guerrero State

Lic. Fransico Diaz Garcia

Procurador del Estado de Guerrero

Carretera México-Acapulco Km. 6300

Chilpancingo 39000

Estado de Guerrero, MEXICO

**Telegrams: Procurador Estado, Guerrero, México**

**Faxes: + 52 747 22328**

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

**COPIES TO:**

National Commission of Human Rights

Licda. Mireille Roccatti Velazquez

Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDH)

Periférico Sur 3469

Col. San Jerónimo Lídice, 10200 México D.F. MEXICO

**Faxes: + 52 5 681 7199**

**e-mails: cndh@laneta.apc.org**

La Voz de los Sin Voz

Hilda Navarrete Gorjon

Calle Venustiano Carranza numero 26,

Codigo Postal 40980,

Coyuca de Benitez,

Guerrero, MÉXICO

Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos

Serapio Rendón No. 57-B, planta baja

Col. San Rafael,

06470, México D.F., 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 8 September 1999.