

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/31/99

11 November 1999

Further information on UA 204/98 (AMR 41/32/98, 16 July 1998) and follow-up (AMR 41/37/98, 27 August 1998) - Fear for safety

MEXICO Benigno GUZMAN MARTINEZ  
Bertoldo MARTINEZ CRUZ  
and new names: Efren CORTES CHAVEZ  
Angel Guillermo MARTINEZ GONZALEZ  
Erika ZAMORA PARDO [f]  
Virginia MONTES GONZALEZ [f]

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Amnesty International fears for the safety of the six detainees named above, all of whom have links with the *Organización Campesina Sierra del Sur* (OCSS), Southern Sierra Peasant Organization. Their safety is in jeopardy following their reported transfer from the *Penal de Acapulco* (Acapulco Prison) in Guerrero state, to the *Penal de Máxima Seguridad de Puente Grande* (Puente Grande Maximum Security Prison), in the state of Jalisco, on 6 November 1999.

Benigno Guzman Martínez and Bertoldo Martínez Cruz, detained almost three years ago, have previously been the target of threats. In May 1998 they were threatened by Acapulco Prison inmates brandishing knives. Those threats were reported to have been carried out on the orders of the prison authorities (see UA 167/98, AMR 41/26/98, 29 May 1998).

Erika Zamora Pardo and Virginia Montes González, the two women transferred to the *Penal de Máxima Seguridad de Puente Grande*, find themselves in a prison which is reported to exclusively hold men and has no facilities for the separate detention of women. If this is the case, Amnesty International believes the women's physical and psychological well-being is already seriously threatened, and that the Mexican authorities have very likely contravened Rule 8 (a) of the United Nations (UN) Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, which states: " (8) The different categories of prisoners shall be kept in separate institutions taking account of their sex, age, criminal record, the legal reasons for their detention and the necessities of their treatment. Thus, (a) Men and women shall so far as possible be detained in separate institutions; in an institution which receives both men and women the whole of the premises allocated to women shall be entirely separate".

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

- calling on the authorities to take all necessary measures to guarantee the safety and well-being of the above prisoners (name all six of them), currently reported to be held in the *Penal de Máxima Seguridad de Puente Grande* (Puente Grande Maximum Security Prison), in the state of Jalisco;
- calling on the authorities to take all necessary steps to ensure that the detention of Erika Zamora Pardo and Virginia Montes González conforms to Rule 8(a) of the United Nations (UN) Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

**APPEALS TO:**

Governor of Jalisco state

Ing. Alberto Cárdenas Jiménez  
Gobernador del Estado de Jalisco  
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Guadalajara 44100  
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**Dear Governor/Estimado Gobernador**

**Attorney for Jalisco state**  
Lic. Félix Ledesma Martínez Negrete  
Procurador del Estado de Jalisco  
Calzada Independencia Norte No. 778  
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**Dear Attorney / Estimado Procurador**

**COPIES TO:**

**Human Rights Organization**  
Liga Mexicana por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (LIMEDH)  
Avenida Azcapotzalco 275  
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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 23 December 1999.