

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/31/98

UA 200/98

Fear for safety

14 July 1998

**MEXICO** Yolanda Castro - Director of K'inal Antzetik, women's group.

Inés Castro - Member of K'inal Antzetik, women's group.

All other members of K'inal Antzetik, women's group.

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There are concerns for the safety of sisters Yolanda and Inés Castro after they received a death threat on 10 July 1998. The two women are members of *K'inal Antzetik*, a Chiapas-based advisory women's group. Members of the group have received a number of threats in the past and the *K'inal Antzetik* office has been kept under surveillance.

Yolanda and Inés Castro believe the death threat was written by paramilitaries linked to the state authorities. The letter, signed by 'Las Muertes' ('The Deaths'), ordered the two sisters to leave Chiapas 'before it was too late' and went on to say:

*'Hasen caso de lo que estamos escribindo porque es verdad y pronto sabran quienes somos, igual alas extrangeras que se ballan del país porque de todas maneras pronto las echaran. Acuerde se que estamos muy cerca de ustedes...[sic]'* (Take note of what we have written, because it is true and you will soon know who we are. The same goes for the foreign women, they should also leave the country, because they will be thrown out soon anyway. Remember we are always near by...).

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Over the past years Amnesty International has documented the escalating violence in the State of Chiapas with deep concern. Threats against non-governmental organisations and human rights defenders have increased recently, as in the cases of threats received by the *Centro de Derechos Indígenas* (CEDIAC), Indigenous Rights Centre and those received by Bishop Samuel Ruíz (see UA 90/98, AMR 41/17/98, 20 March; ARM 41/02/98, 13 January).

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

- requesting that adequate measures be taken to guarantee the physical safety of Yolanda Castro, Inés Castro and all the other members of K'inal Antzetik;
- calling for an immediate investigation to be opened into these death threats, that the findings be made public, and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- seeking assurances that all members of K'inal Antzetik will be able to carry out their peaceful activities without being subjected to human rights violations.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar

Señor Procurador General de Justicia de la República

Procuraduría General de Jusitcia de la República

Paseo de la Reforma y Violeta, Col. Guerrero

06300 México D.F., MEXICO

**Telegrams: Procuraduría General de la República, México DF, México**

**Faxes: +52 5 626 4419**

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

Governor of the State of Chiapas  
Lic. Roberto Albores Guillén  
Gobernador del Estado de Chiapas  
Palacio de Gobierno, Piso 1  
Col. Centro, 29000 Tuxtla Gutiérrez  
Estado de Chiapas  
MEXICO

**Telegrams: Gobernador del Estado, Chiapas, México**

**Faxes: +52 961 2 0917**

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

Attorney of the State of Chiapas  
Lic. Jorge Hernandez Aguilar  
Procurador del Estado de Chiapas  
Procuraduría General del Estado de Chiapas  
Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Estado de Chiapas  
MEXICO

**Telegrams: Procurador del Estado, Chiapas, México**

**Faxes: +52 961 2 8998**

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

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights Organizations  
Comisión de Derechos Humanos "Fray Bartolomé de las Casas",  
Francisco León 46, Barrio de Santa Lucía,  
San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas C.P. 29250, MEXICO

*K'injal Antzetik*  
Avenida 5 Mayo, 25  
Barrio de los Mexicanos  
San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas C.P. 29240, 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 25 August 1998.