

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/15/97

UA 86/97 Extrajudicial Execution/Fear for safety

26 March 1997

MEXICO Guadalupe Valentino López Carrasco, teacher, aged 50 - killed
Nicasia Hernández Petatán (f), teacher, aged 52 - killed

Granddaughter of the victims, aged 5, witness to killing
Colleague of the victims, witness to killing

Amnesty International is gravely concerned by the apparent extrajudicial execution of Guadalupe Valentino López Carrasco and his wife, Nicasia Hernández Petatán, who were killed on 23 March 1997 in La Montaña region of the state of Guerrero. Both were members of the *Partido de la Revolución Democrática*, (PRD), Party of the Democratic Revolution, a legal opposition party. There are fears for the safety of the couple's five-year-old granddaughter and a friend of theirs, who witnessed the brutal murders.

Guadalupe Valentino López Carrasco was mayor of the municipality of Malinaltepec, in the state of Guerrero, between 1993 and 1996. Both he and his wife were teachers and defenders of indigenous people's rights in La Montaña region. They had received death threats relating to these activities.

On 23 March 1997 at 5.30pm, the couple, along with their granddaughter and a friend, were returning to Malinaltepec when the van they were driving was intercepted by two armed men, allegedly linked to the local authorities. They were both shot in the head from point-blank range. None of their possessions were stolen.

Amnesty International is deeply alarmed by the murder and the threat now faced by the witnesses. It is calling on the authorities to guarantee the safety of the witnesses and for a full and prompt investigation resulting in the perpetrators being brought to justice.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has documented dozens of cases of serious human rights violations against members of the PRD, peasant and community activists as well as human rights defenders. The increase in security force operations to quell recent guerrilla activities has often meant that those people or groups who publicly dissent from the governing party, the *Partido Revolucionario Institucional* (PRI), Institutional Revolutionary Party, are presumed to be members of guerrilla groups and are targeted for human rights abuses. This is especially true in the state of Guerrero where a climate of systematic human rights violations and impunity prevails.

Bertoldo Martínez Cruz, secretary of the Human Rights Committee of the PRD, is presently being detained for his grass roots activism (see EXTRA 91/96, AMR 41/26/96, 11 June 1996, and follow-ups). Gregorio Alfonso Alvarado López, a teacher, trade unionist and indian rights activist "disappeared" in September 1996 and has not been seen since (see UA 237/96, AMR 41/61/96, 8 October 1996).

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

- calling for a prompt and full investigation of the extrajudicial killing of Guadalupe Valentino López Carrasco and Nicasia Hernández Petatán;
- urging that those found responsible be brought to justice;

- expressing grave concern for the safety of the two witnesses to the killings and calling for immediate steps to be taken to ensure their safety;
- asking for details of any progress made in investigations of similar human rights violations against grass roots activists;
- expressing deep alarm about the continuing human rights violations in the state of Guerrero and the apparent lack of effective action on the part of the authorities to stop them and to end the impunity currently enjoyed by most perpetrators.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Interior

Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor
Secretario de Gobernación
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucarelli 99, 1er piso,
Col Juarez, 06699 México DF, MÉXICO

Telegrams: Secretario de Gobernación, México DF, México

Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350

Salutation: Sr. Secretario / Dear Minister

2) Attorney General of the State of Guerrero

Lic. Antonio Hernández Díaz
Procurador del Estado de Guerrero
Carretera Nacional México-Acapulco Km. 6.300
CP 39.000, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, MEXICO.

Telegrams: Sr. Procurador, Guerrero, México

Faxes: + 52 747 223 28 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Procurador/ Dear Attorney

3) Interim Governor of the State of Guerrero

Ángel Heladio Aguirre Rivero
Gobernador Interino del Estado de Guerrero
Palacio de Gobierno
Plaza Primer Congreso de Anahuac
39000 Chilpancingo, Guerrero, México

Telegrams: Gobernador Aguirre, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, México

Faxes: + 52 747 23072 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

1) Daily newspaper

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Human Rights Organization

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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 7 May 1997.