

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/68/97

1 August 1997

Further information on UA 250/97 (41/66/97, 31 July 1997) - Fear for Safety

MEXICO Paciano Hernández Castro, peasant activist

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On 1 August 1997 Amnesty International received information concerning the whereabouts of Paciano Hernández Castro who "disappeared" after his arrest on 29 July. He has been presented before the judicial authorities in Tepoztlán, accused of homicide along with another local peasant activist, Arnulfo Vargas Benítez, despite the apparent lack of evidence to support the charges. Amnesty International fears that he has been targeted for his activism.

Amnesty International will continue to monitor this situation and seek clarification about the charges. However, no further action is required by the UA network at this stage. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals, contributing to ensure the swift "reappearance" and safety of Paciano Hernández Castro.