

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/75/97

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 15 per Section.

UA 272/97

"Disappearance" / Fear of torture

14 August 1997

MEXICO Everardo Salgado Román, political activist

On 11 August 1997, Everardo Salgado Román, an active member of the *Partido de la Revolución Democrática* (PRD), Party of the Democratic Revolution, was abducted in the town of Iguala, Guerrero State. He has not been seen since.

Amnesty International fears that he has been arbitrarily detained by members of the security forces on account of his political activism. The organization is deeply concerned for his safety.

Everardo Salgado was travelling in a vehicle with three other men when, at 12.30am, it broke down. A truck pulled up and according to reports, four masked men in civilian clothes got out. Without producing any form of identification, they forced Everardo Salgado and one of his companions, Mardonio Alvarez, into the truck, blindfolded them and drove them away. After a short time they released Mardonio Alvarez, saying that he was of no use to them.

Efforts by Everardo Salgado's relatives and other PRD members to locate him have been unsuccessful, and state authorities have denied having any record of his detention.

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 in states such as Guerrero and Oaxaca. The mid-term congressional elections in July 1997 contributed to heightened political tension particularly in these two states which have a record of human rights violations and impunity from prosecution for the perpetrators. The activities of the insurgent *Ejército Popular Revolucionario* (EPR), Popular Revolutionary Army, an armed opposition group which operates in the region, have given the security forces an excuse to target all forms of opposition, including legal political parties.

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

- calling for the whereabouts of Everardo Salgado Román to be made public immediately, for his family to be informed, and for him to be released;
- seeking assurances that if he is in detention he is being treated humanely;
- calling for an prompt and full investigation into the arbitrary detention of Everardo Salgado Román and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice;
- expressing deep alarm at the increasing number of reports of human rights violations in the state of Guerrero, the apparent lack of effective action to stop them and the impunity currently enjoyed by most perpetrators.

APPEALS TO:

1) Attorney General of the Republic
Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuéllar
Procurador General de la República
Procuraduría General de la República
Paseo de la Reforma y Violeta
Col. Guerrero, 06300 México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador Madrazo, México D.F., México

Faxes: (+52 5) 626 4419

Salutation: Sr. Procurador General / Dear Attorney General

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 (if voice 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, Mexico

Telegrams: Gobernador Aguirre, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico

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

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

1) Centro de Derechos Humanos

"Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C.

Puebla N. 153 Col. Roma

06700 México D.F.

MEXICO

2) Sr. Director

La Jornada

Balderas 68

06050 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 30 September 1997.