

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/108/97

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Further information on UA 14/97 (AMR 41/01/97, 15 January 1997) - Torture /
Fear of torture / Prisoners of conscience

MEXICO Laurencio Guarneros Sandoval, aged 40, community activist
 Julio Bello Palacios, aged 16, community activist
 Remigio Ayala Martínez, aged 17, community activist
 Carlos Ricardo Ruiz Canada, aged 45, restaurant manager

Amnesty International recently learned that Laurencio Guarneros Sandoval, Remigio Ayala Martínez and Carlos Ricardo Ruiz Canada were released without charge in September 1997. Julio Bello Palacios had been released several days after being detained. No further details are known at present.

All four were arrested on 11 January 1997 by members of the judicial police of Yautepec, at Yautepec, Tepoztlán, Morelos state.

Laurencio Guarneros Sandoval, Julio Bello Palacios and Remigio Ayala Martínez are members of the *Comité de Unidad Tepozteca* (CUT), Committee of Tepoztecan Unity, an indigenous peasant organization, and of the volunteer security group for the Tepoztlan town hall. They have been very active in protecting and promoting the rights of Tepoztlán people. Amnesty International believes they were imprisoned solely on the grounds of their lawful activities and considered them to be prisoners of conscience.

No further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals on this case.