

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/14/96

8 March 1996

Further information on UA 34/96 (AMR 41/05/96, 13 February 1996) - Ill-treatment / Fear of torture and new Medical and legal concerns

MEXICO Andrés Manuel López Obrado, PRD member
Dorilian Díaz Pérez, civil servant at Town Hall
Rafael López Cruz, President of the State Committee of PRD
Darvin González Ballina, former PRD parliamentarian

and 98 other detainees, including 8 women and 3 minors

Concern for 102 people detained at a peaceful environmental demonstration in the state of Tabasco on 7 February 1996 has been heightened by reports that several of them have been denied medical care and appropriate legal aid in custody. They all are being denied bail and accused of crimes against national security such as "sabotage", "sedition" and "criminal association". They are reportedly being held in appalling conditions, which may amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

Among those detained are eight women who have been denied medical care despite infectious diseases contracted while in detention. Members of the *Comité de Derechos Humanos de Tabasco*, CODEHUTAB, Human Rights Committee of Tabasco, who have visited the prisoners, confirmed that the diseases, including fungal infections, are due to the very poor prison conditions. Also, two of the women have specifically been denied access to prescribed medication for their kidney and blood pressure problems brought to them by relatives.

The lawyers of some of the detainees have allegedly not been allowed to meet with their clients in private.

The detainees, who include several Mayan Indian peasants, were arrested on 7 February by members of the state and federal security forces who forcibly broke up a peaceful blockade, led by members of the *Partido de la Revolución Democrática*, PRD, Democratic Revolution Party, in the village of Huatacalca, Nacajuca, state of Tabasco. The demonstrators were demanding an end to oil spills caused by the oil industry and compensation for the pollution caused on their land. There are 64 oil platforms in the state.

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

- calling for all the detainees to be treated humanely in accordance with international standards for detention, such as the United Nations Minimum Rules of the Treatment of Prisoners;
- calling for them to be immediately given an independent medical examination, and granted access to the medical care needed in each particular case;
- calling for all the detainees to be allowed to meet their lawyers in private in accordance with international legal standards.

Appeals from doctors and other health professionals would be welcome.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of the Republic
Lic. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León
Presidente de la República

Palacio Nacional
06067, México D.F., MEXICO
Telegrams: Presidente Zedillo, México D.F., México
Telexes: 170937 sppnme; 1774468 sppnme
Faxes: + 52 5 271 1764
Salutation: Sr. President/Dear President

2) Minister of the Interior
Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor
Secretario de la Gobernación
Secretaría de la Gobernación
Bucareli 99, 1er piso
Col. Juárez
06699, México DF, MEXICO
Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México D.F., México
Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350
Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister

3) Governor of Tabasco State
Roberto Madrazo Pintado
Gobernador del Estado de Tabasco
Palacio de Gobierno
Villahermosa, Tabasco, MEXICO
Telegrams: Gobernador, Tabasco, México
Faxes: + 52 93 140825 (if voice, ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")
Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

1) Weekly magazine
Sr. Editor
La Jornada
Balderas 68
06050, México D.F., MEXICO

2) Human rights organization
Sres.
Comite de Derechos Humanos de Tabasco
A. Sánchez Magallanes 844 Altos
86000 Villahermosa, Tabasco, 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 28 April 1996.