

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/56/96

26 September 1996

Further information on UA 200/96 (AMR 41/43/96, 13 August 1996) and follow-up (AMR 41/51/96, 29 August 1996) - Death Threats / Fear for safety

MEXICO Pilar Noriega (f), lawyer
Digna Ochoa (f), lawyer
 Enrique Flota, lawyer

On the afternoon of 23 September 1996, another anonymous threat was left in the offices of the *Centro de Derechos Humanos Agustín Pro-Juárez (PRODH)*, Human Rights Centre Agustín Pro-Juárez. This is the latest in a series of threats, believed to be related to the work of Pilar Noriega and Digna Ochoa both members of PRODH, Enrique Flota is the leader of the legal team at PRODH, in reference to a case involving a group of detainees accused of being members of the *Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN)*, Zapatista National Liberation Army, an armed opposition group which is currently undergoing peace negotiations with the government.

The latest threat reads as follows:

"AHORA NO SOLO SERÁN LAS ABOGADAS VALIENTES COMO BIEN LO DIJO AYER EL LICENCIADO FLOTA AHORA LO AGREGAREMOS A EL A LA LISTA DE LOS LIQUIDABLES, PRONTO SERA LA SORPRESA, PUDIMOS HABER LO HECHO EN PUENTE GRANDE, TOLUCA, EN ALMOLOYA, EN CENTENARIO, EN... QUIEREN SABER MAS... PRONTO LO SABRÁN."

"Now it is not only the brave lawyers, as Licenciado Flota said yesterday - (referring to Enrique Flota who in a recent radio program made public the threats of the two lawyers) - now we will add him to the hit list; the surprise will come soon, we could have done it in Puente Grande, Toluca, in Almoloya (the names of the prison courts that the lawyers have most recently visited), in Centenario (the name of the street where Digna Ochoa lives), in if you want to know more ...you soon will"

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

- expressing deep concern at the death threats against Pilar Noriega, Digna Ochoa and now Enrique Flota, and asking what measures they took in response to earlier appeals;
- urging the authorities to take immediate measures to guarantee the safety of Pilar Noriega, Digna Ochoa and Enrique Flota and to fully respect the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers Principles 16, 18, 22 and 23 (*) among others.

* These are as follows, which you may use if possible:

Under the title: **Guarantees for the functioning of lawyers:**

Principle 16

"Government shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference;"

Principle 18

"Lawyers shall not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes as a result of discharging their function."

Principle 22

"Governments shall recognize and respect that all communications and consultations between lawyers and their clients within their professional relationship are confidential."

Under the title: **Freedom of expression and association**

Principle 23

"Lawyers like other citizens are entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly. In particular, they shall have the right to take part in public discussion of matters concerning the law, the administration of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights and to join or form local, national or international organizations and attend their meetings....."

APPEALS TO:

1) Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Antonio Lozano Gracia
Procurador General de la República
Paseo de la Reforma 75
México 06200 D.F. MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador General de la República, México D.F., México

Faxes: + 52 5 626 4478

Salutation: Sr. Procurador / Dear Attorney General

2) Attorney General of the Federal District

Lic. José Antonio González Fernández
Procurador del Distrito Federal
Niños Heroes 132. Col. Doctores
México 06720 D.F. MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador General del Distrito Federal, México D.F., México

Faxes: + 52 5 625 7081

Salutation: Sr. Procurador / Dear Attorney General

COPIES TO:

1) Centro de DD.HH.

Miguel Agustín Pro-Juárez (PRODH)
Puebla No 153, Col Roma
06700 México DF, México

Faxes: + 52 5 208 7547

2) daily newspaper

Sr. Editor
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 20 November 1996.