

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 41/07/95  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 37/95

Threats / Fear for safety

15 February 1995

MEXICO

Marisa KRAMSKY ESPINOSA (f), political activist  
and her family

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In the last few days, Marisa Kramsky Espinosa, a political activist in the state of Chiapas, and members of her family, have reportedly received anonymous telephone threats. The threats indicate that unless they stop supporting Bishop Samuel Ruiz, they would suffer acts of aggression and violence ("*..de que serán víctimas de agresiones y actos violentos en caso de seguir apoyando al Obispo Samuel Ruiz*").

Father Samuel Ruiz, Bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas, has been mediating in the conflict between the Mexican government and the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) which first erupted on 1 January 1994. He himself has been threatened during the course of his work.

Amnesty International is concerned that the threats against the Kramsky Espinosa family may be part of the current official clampdown against alleged members and sympathizers of the EZLN, which has already resulted in the detention and reported torture in the past few days of several people (see UA 31/95, AMR 41/02/95, 13 February and follow-up AMR 41/05/95, 14 February, and also UA 36/95, AMR 41/06/95, 15 February).

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In a press statement on 9 February, President Ernesto Zedillo called for the arrest of several leaders of the Zapatista National Liberation Army, including sub-commander Marcos, whom he named as Rafael Sebastián Guillén Vicente. The President also named four other alleged leaders of the EZLN. Arrest warrants were issued against all five.

At 1.15am on 10 February, the offices of CONPAZ (*Coordinación de Organismos no Gubernamentales por la Paz*), the Coordination of non-governmental organizations working for peace, in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, were raided by members of the Mexican Federal Judicial Police (PFJ). Members of CONPAZ are reported to have been followed by the police when they left their offices shortly before the raid.

In the light of these events, Amnesty International fears further human rights violations. In the armed clashes between government and EZLN forces which began on 1 January 1994, at least 145 people are reported to have died before a cease-fire was called in mid-January 1994. Amnesty International has documented widespread human rights violations in the context of the ongoing conflict, including the summary execution of prisoners, extensive use of torture, and "disappearances" perpetrated by members of the Mexican army. To date no member of the security forces has been brought to justice for these violations.

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

- expressing concern at the threats received by Marisa Kramsky Espinosa and members of her family during the second week of February 1995;
- urging the authorities to take immediate and concrete measures to safeguard the lives of the Kramsky Espinosa family;

- calling for an investigation into these threats and that those responsible be brought to justice.

**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., Mexico**

**Telexes: 170937 sppnme; 1774468 sppnme**

**Faxes: + 52 5 271 1764**

**Salutation: Sr. Presidente/Dear President**

2) Minister of the Interior

Lic. Esteban Moctezuma Barragán  
 Secretario de Gobernación  
 Secretaría de Gobernación  
 Bucareli 99, 1er. piso  
 Col. Juárez  
 06699 México DF, MEXICO

**Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México D.F, Mexico**

**Faxes: +52 5 592 0584**

**Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister**

3) Minister of Defence

Gral. Enrique Cervantes Aguirre  
 Secretario de la Defensa Nacional  
 Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional  
 Blvd. Manuel Ávila Camacho y  
 Avda. Industria Militar  
 Col. Lomas de Sotelo  
 11640 México DF, MEXICO

**Telegrams: Secretario Defensa, México D.F., Mexico**

**Faxes: (+52 5) 557 1370 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")**

**Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) Human rights organization

Sres. CONPAZ  
 Chiapa de Corzo 19, El Cerrillo  
 San Cristóbal de las Casas  
 29220 Chiapas, Mexico

2) Human rights organization

Sres. Centro de Derechos Humanos  
 San Bartolomé de las Casas  
 5 de Febrero No. 6  
 San Cristóbal de las Casas  
 29200 Chiapas, Mexico

3) 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 30 March 1995.