

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 41/16/95

Distr: UA/SC

26 July 1995

Further information (1) on UA 159/95 (AMR 41/15/95, 5 July 1995) -
"Disappearance" / Fear for Safety / Possible Extrajudicial Executions

MEXICO José ASCENCIO DOMÍNGUEZ,

Benigno GUZMÁN MARTÍNEZ

Héctor PONCE RADILLA

David MOLINA

and several other members of the OCSS and members of the PRD in Guerrero State

Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of members of *Organización Campesina de la Sierra del Sur* (OCSS), Southern Sierra Peasant Organization, and of the *Partido Revolucionario Democrático* (PRD), Democratic Revolutionary Party, a political opposition party whose members have suffered attacks and death threats in connection with their activities on behalf of the local indigenous and peasant population. Since the massacre of 17 peasants on 28 of June, a wave of violence has swept through the State of Guerrero.

On 14 July, José Ascencio Domínguez, an OCSS leader, was threatened by a man called Juan Rodríguez, reportedly acting under orders from Roberto Figueroa Alcocer, the governor of Guerrero State. He and two known hired gunmen threatened José Ascencio Domínguez, telling him to come out of his house "if he was a man". The following morning, the same three men came back and opened fire on the house. José Ascencio Domínguez was previously shot and badly wounded by the same man on 21 May 1995.

Another man, Bartolomé Guzmán Martínez, also reportedly working under Roberto Figueroa Alcocer's orders, publicly declared that they would try to exterminate the OCSS "by killing its members one by one". Following these threats, on 16 July, Ismael Mena Alvarez and Eugenio Aguirre Bahena, founder members of the OCSS, were shot in the back at close range and killed in Tepetitla in Coyuca Benitez as they were leaving a meeting of the OCSS to call for a peaceful demonstration demanding the removal of Roberto Figueroa Alcocer as state governor. Some people who attended the meeting and witnessed the killings have confirmed that the assailants afterwards fired shots into the mouths of the bodies.

Violence against members of the PRD is reported to have increased in Guerrero State since the 28 June massacre. On 13 July 1995, Pablo Salas Romero, a local leader of the PRD, was killed by unidentified gunmen in the town of La Laja, Coyuca de Benítez Municipality. Press reports indicate that those responsible for the murder were members of the State Police.

On 14 July, Cristino Bibiano Nava, a 64 year-old peasant and a candidate for the town council [trans: *comité municipal*], was shot dead by unidentified gunmen.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There are growing fears for the safety of members of the OCSS and the PRD in the State of Guerrero. Both organizations have been involved in defending peasants' land rights in the region, where land disputes and politics often result in state-sponsored violence against peasants. A total of 86 PRD members have been killed in the context of political violence in Guerrero since the party was founded in 1988.

On 28 of June 1995, 17 peasants were killed in Atoyac de Alvarez (see original UA 159/95). Although ten low-ranking police gunmen have been jailed in connection with the massacre, Amnesty International is deeply concerned that Mauricio Moreno, the director of state public security responsible for the action has reportedly not been held accountable. According to reports, on 14 September 1994, Mauricio Moreno led another police unit against several hundred peaceful demonstrators in Guerrero; scores of indigenous people were hospitalized as a result of the police attack. Although criminal charges were filed against him the same day, and on 1 February 1995, the *Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos* (CNDH), National Human Rights Commission, presented a recommendation (No 32/95) that Commander Moreno be charged, he remains in post.

Following allegations of irregularities in the post-mortem on the bodies of the 17 massacre victims, Judge Adolfo Vanmeeter Roque has ordered their exhumation to try to verify the cause and manner of death. Vinicio Godinez Silva and Apolonio Romero Bailón, witnesses to the massacre, reported that shots were fired into the dead bodies of at least three of the victims.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing serious concern for the safety of José Ascencio Domínguez, Benigno Guzmán Martínez, Hector Ponce Radilla, David Molina and several other members of the OCSS, as well as for many members of the PRD in Guerrero State;
- urging a prompt and full investigation into death threats made against José Ascencio Domínguez and all members of the OCSS;
- urging, likewise, a prompt and full investigation into the killings of Ismael Mena Alvarez and Eugenio Aguirre Bahena of the OCSS, and of PRD members Pablo Salas Romero and Cristino Bibiano Nava;
- calling for the immediate dismissal of Mauricio Moreno, the director of state public security responsible for the massacre of 28 June.

APPEALS TO:

1) State Governor

Lic. Rubén Figueroa Alcocer
 Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero
 Palacio de Gobierno
 Plaza Primer Congreso de Anahuac
 Chilpancingo, Guerrero
 México CP 39000, México

Faxes: +52 747 23072 / 747 23007 (voice line: ask "me da tono de fax por favor")

Telegrams: Gobernador Alcocer, Guerrero, Mexico

Salutation: Sr.Gobernador/Dear Governor

2) President of the Republic

Lic. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio Nacional
 06067 México D.F., México

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

3) 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, México

Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México D.F., México
Faxes: +52 5 592 0584; 592 0014
Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Daily newspaper

Sr. Editor
La Jornada
Balderas 68
06050 México DF, México

2) Human Rights Organization

Comite Nacional Independiente
Pro-defensa de Presos , Perseguidos,
Desaparecidos y Exiliados Politicos (CNI)
Apartado Postal 7-887
Codigo Postal 06700
México DF, México

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 6 September 1995.