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Mexican indigenous rape survivor on European tour

Mexican indigenous activist and rape survivor Valentina Rosendo Cantú is sharing her story and struggle for justice in a speaking-tour of European countries hosted by Amnesty International.

Valentina was raped by several members of the Mexican military in Guerrero, southern Mexico in 2002, when she was 17-years-old. No one has been punished for the crime, which was dealt with in the military justice system.

Her powerful testimony highlights the lack of independence and impartiality of the military justice system when dealing with cases of human rights abuses committed by the military.

Valentina will be speaking in a number of public events hosted by Amnesty International groups in Germany, France, Spain and the UK.

Speaking to Amnesty International about her work, Valentina said:

“The harm that the government did to me can never be repaired. It will be part of my life forever and I will never forget what happened. The government never believed me and it always said ‘you’re a liar. Now I can say that the government is the one who is lying. I demand justice. I demand that the government accept publicly that it was the military who abused me.”

For further information or photos of Valentina, please contact:

Josefina Salomon, jsalomon@amnesty.org, mobile: +44 7778 472 116.

To arrange an interview with Valentina during her visit to Europe, please contact:

In Germany - 21 to 27 May

Contact: Anabel Bermejo, +49 30 420 248 314, anabel.bermejo@amnesty.de

In France – 28 to 31 May

Contact: Aurélie Chatelard + 33 1 53 38 65 77, achetelard@amnesty.fr

In Spain – 1 to 4 June

Contact: Angel Gonzalo, +34 91 31 01 277, agonzalo@es.amnesty.org

In the UK – 5 to 9 June

Contact: Niall Couper, +44 207 033 6414 niall.couper@amnesty.org.uk

Harriet Garland, +44 207 033 1549 harriet.garland@amnesty.org.uk

For more information about the misuse of the military justice system in Mexico, please see:

<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/010/2011/en>

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