

PUBLIC

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UA 87/07 Fear for safety/ death threats

MEXICO Misael Habana, journalist (m)

**Killed: Amado Ramírez Dillanes, journalist (m)**

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Journalist Misael Habana, whose co-presenter Amado Ramírez Dillanes was shot dead on 6 April, received death threats the following day. The two men had presented the news programme *Al Tanto* on the Acapulco local radio station Radiorama, in Guerrero state.

On the evening of 6 April, as he left the Radiorama offices and got into his car, Amado Ramírez was reportedly shot in the leg and chest and in the back as he tried to get away. The last shot was fatal. During the previous month he had reportedly received an anonymous telephone death threat during a break in his radio broadcast. Amado Ramírez, who was also a local correspondent for national TV channel Televisa, had aired a special investigation into the killing of local police officers, linking the crime to drug traffickers. Several other people were killed in Acapulco in recent days during a spate of killings linked to drug cartels operating in Mexico's west coast states.

On 7 April, the security guard at Radiorama received an anonymous telephone call warning that *no hemos acabado, nos falta uno y es Misa* ("we haven't finished yet, there is still one to go and that is Misa"), a reference to Misael Habana.

The motive of the murder is being investigated by the Guerrero state authorities, and two men were arrested for questioning on 10 April in connection with the murder. Amnesty International is concerned that unless state and federal authorities investigate the case thoroughly and ensure the protection of Misael Habana, other journalists may be at similar risk and the climate for journalists to carry out their vital work will become even worse.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

International and national nongovernmental organizations have reported high levels of violence against journalists in Mexico during the last six years. In 2006 at least 10 journalists were murdered and a number of others have reportedly been abducted. Journalists reporting on corruption and the activities of organized criminal networks are particularly at risk. In acknowledgement of the rising attacks on journalists around the country and the failure of state authorities to hold those responsible to account, the federal authorities established the Office of Special Prosecutor on Crimes against Journalists (*Fiscalía Especial para la Atención de Delitos Cometidos contra Periodistas*) in February 2006 to improve investigation of such cases. However, there is almost total impunity for such crimes, as the Special Federal Prosecutor has failed to ensure successful prosecutions in any of the more than 100 cases under investigation. Protection measures available to journalists are scarce and inadequate and the failure of many authorities to demonstrate clear support for the work of journalists throughout the country has contributed to an increasingly difficult environment undermining the right to freedom of speech.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:**

- expressing concern at the murder of Amado Ramírez and death threats against Misael Habana;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that Misael Habana receives protection measures to guarantee his safety in accordance with his wishes;

- calling for a full, prompt and impartial investigation by federal authorities into the murder of Amado Ramírez and the threats against Misael Habana;
- reminding the authorities of their duty to ensure those responsible for attacks on journalists are held to account in order to prevent future attacks and create a climate in which journalists can exercise freedom of expression without fear of reprisal.

**APPEALS TO:**

**Special Federal Prosecutor on Crimes against Journalists**

Lic. Octavio Alberto Orellana Wiarco  
Fiscal Especial para la Atención de Delitos Cometidos contra Periodistas  
Procuraduría General de la República  
Av. Paseo de la Reforma #211-213  
Col. Cuauhtémoc, Del. Cuauhtémoc, C.P. 06500, México D.F., MEXICO  
**Fax:** +52 55 53 46 09 08  
**Salutation:** Dear Sir/ Señor Fiscal Especial

**Attorney General of Guerrero**

Lic. Eduardo Murueta Urrutia,  
Procurador del Estado de Guerrero  
Procuraduría General del Estado  
Carretera Nacional México-Acapulco Km. 6+300  
Tramo Chilpancingo-Petaquillos, Chilpancingo 39090, Guerrero MÉXICO  
**Fax:** +52 747 472 2328  
**Email:** [cprocurador@pgjgro.gob.mx](mailto:cprocurador@pgjgro.gob.mx)  
**Salutation:** Dear Attorney / Señor Procurador

**Governor of Guerrero**

Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo  
Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero  
Palacio de Gobierno, Edificio Centro, piso 2  
Ciudad de los Servicios, CP 39075, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, MÉXICO  
**Fax:** +52 747 471 9801 (if someone answers say "me da tono de fax por favor")  
**Email:** [magalyss@guerrero.gob.mx](mailto:magalyss@guerrero.gob.mx) (secretary of the governor)  
**Salutation:** Dear Governor/Señor Gobernador

**Minister of the Interior**

Lic. Francisco Javier Ramírez Acuña  
Secretario de Gobernación, Secretaría de Gobernación  
Bucareli 99, piso 1, Col. Juárez, Del. Cuauhtémoc, México D.F., C.P.06600, MEXICO  
**Fax:** (+52 55) 5093 3414/15/16 (to confirm receipt /17)  
**E-mail:** [frjramirez@segob.gob.mx](mailto:frjramirez@segob.gob.mx)  
**Salutation:** Señor Secretario / Dear Minister

**COPIES TO:**

**President of the National Commission of Human Rights**

Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández  
Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDH)  
Periférico Sur 3469, 5º piso, Col. San Jerónimo Lídice, México D.F. 10200, MÉXICO  
**Fax:** (+52 55) 56 81 81 25, then dial 9  
**E-mail:** [correo@cndh.org.mx](mailto:correo@cndh.org.mx)

**Reporteros Sin Fronteras – Corresponsalía México**

Calzada Mexico-Tacuba, no. 235, Col. Popotla, Del. Miguel Hidalgo, CP 11400, Mexico DF, 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 25 May 2007.