

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/026/2005

20 July 2005

Further Information on UA 175/04 (AMR 41/021/2005, 24 June 2005) Fear for safety/threats

MEXICO

Workers at the newspaper *Noticias*, Oaxaca

Workers at the newspaper *Noticias*, in the southern city of Oaxaca, have reportedly been forcibly evicted from the newspaper's office by members of the Workers and Peasants' Revolutionary Confederation (*Confederación Revolucionaria Obrera y Campesina*, (CROC), the trade union which had been picketing (*bloqueando*) the office since 17 June.

According to reports, at around 8pm on 18 July, 60 CROC members wearing hoods broke into the building, where 31 newspaper staff had been trapped since the beginning of the picket. The intruders were allegedly armed with sticks, and threatened to beat the workers, all of whom were forced to leave. Some office computers and furniture were also reportedly destroyed during the eviction.

The intruders were allegedly accompanied by several state and municipal police officers dressed in plain clothes. The Deputy State Attorney General, the Director of Preliminary Investigations and two agents from the Public Prosecutor's Office (*Ministerio Público*) were allegedly also present during the eviction but did not take any action to prevent the violence.

The CROC is officially led by a local parliamentary deputy of the ruling party in Oaxaca, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (*Partido de la Revolucionario Institucional*). Thirty one workers at the newspaper *Noticias* had remained inside the building for 31 days after members of the CROC began a picket of the *Noticias* office in an apparent attempt to close the publication, which supports a coalition of local opposition parties. The trade union action was instigated by the CROC leadership against the express wishes of the *Noticias* workforce.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. Amnesty International will continue to monitor the situation, and will take further action as necessary. Please send a final round of appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing concern at the recent forcible eviction of the staff of the newspaper *Noticias* from their office;
- calling on the authorities to take steps to prevent reprisals against the workers as a result of their opposition to the CROC's actions;
- calling on the authorities to fully investigate the events surrounding the 31-day picket of the *Noticias* office and the forcible eviction of the newspaper's staff, including the alleged involvement of state agents;
- calling on the authorities to ensure anyone found to be responsible for the intimidation of the staff of *Noticias* is brought to justice;
- reminding the authorities that they are obliged to guarantee freedom of expression.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of Oaxaca

Ulises Ruiz Ortiz

Gobernador del Estado de Oaxaca

Carretera Oaxaca, Puerto Angel, Km. 9.5

Santa María Coyotopec, C. P. 71254, Oaxaca, Oaxaca, MEXICO

Fax: + 52 951 511.6879 (if someone answers, ask "tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Señor Gobernador/Dear Governor

Attorney General of Oaxaca

Lic. Patricia Villanueva Abraján
Procuradora del Estado de Oaxaca
Avenida Luis Echeverría s/n, La Experimental
San Antonio de la Cal, C. P. 71236, Oaxaca,
Oaxaca, MEXICO

Fax: +52 951 511 5519

Salutation: Estimada Procuradora/Dear Attorney General

Interior Minister of Oaxaca State

Lic. Jorge Franco Vargas
Secretario de Gobierno
Constitución 519,
Esq. Mártires de Tacubaya,
Oaxaca, Oaxaca, MEXICO

Fax: +52 951 132 5378

Salutation: Estimado Secretario/Dear Sir

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Carlos Abascal Carranza
Secretario de Gobernación
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez
Delegación Cuauhtémoc
México D.F., C.P.06600
MEXICO

Fax: +52 55 5093 3414 / 093 3415/ 093 3410

Salutation: Señor Secretario/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Human rights organization in Oaxaca

Red Oaxaqueña de derechos humanos
Calle Crespo 524 Interior 4-E, Col. Centro
Oaxaca, Oaxaca, CP. 68000, 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 31 August 2005.