

PUBLIC

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Fear for safety/threats

21 May 2004

MEXICO

Lucía Genaro Linares (f)  
Erika González Genaro (f)  
Elisabeth González Genaro (f)  
Other members of their family  
Adriana Rubio Jorge (f)

**Killed:**

**Sócrates Tolentino González Genaro (m) aged 18, member of the indigenous *tlapanec* community**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of those named above following threats against them after they lodged an official complaint against Municipal authorities in Zapotitlan Tablas, Guerrero State. This followed the death in custody in January 2004, of their family member, Socrates Tolentino González Genaro.

Eighteen-year-old, Sócrates Tolentino González Genaro was reportedly detained by municipal preventive police (*policía preventiva municipal*) officers in Zapotitlan Tablas on 14 January. He was taken to the municipal prison and on 15 January his mother Lucía Genaro Linares, was told by the municipal authorities that he had committed suicide in prison. Following her son's death, Lucía Genaro Linares signed official papers on the instructions of the municipal official (*Síndico Municipal*), after he said the authorities would pay for cost of the funeral. However, two days later, her daughter Erika González Genaro discovered that her mother had unintentionally waived the family's right to an autopsy and had declared that her son was planning to commit suicide.

In the face of the attempted cover up, the family, with the assistance of a local human rights organization, secured the exhumation of Socrates' body. On 10 March, a forensic examination concluded that he had been seriously beaten and died as a result of the injuries including two skull fractures, a broken right rib, fractured left tibia and a fracture of the sternum. Lucía Genaro subsequently lodged a complaint with the Public Ministry in Tlapa, Guerrero State, against several municipal authorities, including the Municipal President, the *Síndico Municipal*, and three municipal police officers from Zapotitlan Tablas.

Since the complaint was submitted, Lucía Genaro and other relatives have reportedly been intimidated on several occasions. On one occasion, she was reportedly threatened by the *Síndico Municipal* who said: "we are going to kill you if you don't shut up" (*te vamos a matar si no te callas*). On 22 April, several *policía preventiva municipal* officers in a vehicle reportedly pointed their guns at Socrates' sisters, Erika and Elizabeth González Genaro, as well as their aunt, Cesarea Linares in Zapotitlan Tablas. On 3 May, three municipal police officers shouted "idiot woman" (*señora pendeja*) at Lucía Genaro in the street and told her not to do anything about the death of her son. Erika González Genaro has stopped going to the school as she is concerned for her own safety. Socrates' girlfriend, Adriana Rubio Jorge has also been harassed as at 3am on 7 May, two municipal officers allegedly passed by her house and threw stones onto the roof of the building.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Indigenous communities in southern Mexico are some of the most marginalized and discriminated against in Mexico. Abuses of power, arbitrary policing and judicial practices are common, leaving the most vulnerable exposed to human rights violations with virtually no chance of redress. The state authorities often fail to investigate abuses at the municipal level, leaving abuses of power and human rights violations unchecked, encouraging local authorities to act with impunity, restricting justice to only those with most influence. Frequently living in isolated communities, those who report abuses and seek redress are particularly exposed to threats, intimidation and attack.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Lucía Genaro, her daughters, Erika and Elizabeth González, other relatives and Socrates' girlfriend, Adriana Rubio Jorge, following several acts of intimidation against them in the wake of an official complaint against municipal authorities;
- calling the on the authorities to guarantee their safety and to conduct an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the allegations of threats and acts of intimidation, for the results to be made public and those responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling on the authorities to fully investigate the death in custody of Sócrates Tolentino González Genaro in January 2004, for the results to be made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- reminding the authorities their obligations to prohibit torture and ill-treatment under the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to follow the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

**APPEALS TO:**

Governor of Guerrero

Lic. René Juárez Cisneros,  
Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero  
Palacio de Gobierno, segundo piso  
Plaza Central, Primer Congreso de Anahuac  
Colonia Centro, Chilpancingo 39000, Guerrero, Mexico

**Telegrams: Gobernador, Guerrero, Mexico**  
**Fax: + 52 747 47 23125**  
**Salutation: Dear Governor/Señor Gobernador**

Attorney General of Guerrero

Lic. Jesus Ramirez Guerrero, Procurador General de Justicia del Estado de Guerrero  
Carretera Nacional México-Acapulco Km. 6+300  
Tramo Chilpancingo- Petaquillos, Chilpancingo 39090, Guerrero, Mexico

**Telegrams: Procurador General de Justicia del Estado, Guerrero, Mexico**  
**Fax: + 52 747 47 22328**  
**Salutation: Dear Attorney / Señor Procurador**

Municipal president

Tomas Loyola Díaz  
Presidente municipal  
Ayuntamiento Municipal  
Calle Juan N. Álvarez  
Colonia Centro, Zapotitlan Tablas, Guerrero, Mexico

**Telegrams: Presidente municipal, Guerrero, Mexico**  
**Fax: + 52 200 12 31560 (access to this number is erratic)**  
**Salutation: Dear Municipal President / Señor Presidente Municipal**

President of Guerrero Human Rights Commission

Lic. Juan Alarcón Hernandez  
Presidente de la Comisión de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos del Estado de Guerrero  
Avda. Juárez, Esq. Galo Soberón y Parra, Col. Centro, 39000, Chilpancingo, Guerrero 39000, Mexico

**Telegrams: Presidente de la Comisión de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos del Estado de Guerrero, Guerrero, Mexico**  
**Fax: + 52 747 47 12190 ( if someone answers say :“tono de fax, por favor”)**  
**Salutation: Dear Mr President / Señor Presidente**

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights Centre

Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña "Tlachinollan" AC.  
"Tlachinollan" AC. de la Montaña  
Calle Mina número 77,  
Colonia Centro, Tlapa de Comonfort Código Postal 41304, Guerrero 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 2 July 2004.