

PUBLIC

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Fear for safety

MEXICO

**Patricia Barragán Reyes (f), member of *Coordinadora 28 de mayo* (28 May Network)
Eduardo Carvajal Avila (m), primary school teacher
Other members of *Coordinadora 28 mayo***

On 23 January, human rights defender Patricia Barragán Reyes was reportedly kidnapped and threatened with rape. This was an apparent attempt to intimidate those campaigning on behalf of people detained by the authorities after demonstrations in the city of Guadalajara, Jalisco State. Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Patricia Barragán Reyes, Eduardo Carvajal Avila and others campaigning on this issue.

Patricia Barragán Reyes is a member of *Coordinadora 28 mayo*, a network of organizations created after demonstrations on 28 May 2004, in which scores of people -including Eduardo Carvajal Avila- were detained, tortured and ill-treated by the security forces. Eduardo Carvajal Avila was visited by Patricia Barragán Reyes during his six-month imprisonment.

On 23 January 2005, three armed men forced Patricia Barragán Reyes to get into a car in the centre of Guadalajara. They drove her around the city limits for three hours, asking her about her relationship with Eduardo Carvajal Avila in a lurid and intimidating fashion. The men then told Patricia Barragán Reyes that someone had paid them to rape her and that she should tell Eduardo Carvajal Avila to "stop, because this is only the beginning" ("*que ya le pare, que esto es el principio*"). They added that they only wanted to scare Eduardo Carvajal Avila. Patricia Barragán Reyes was released unharmed after the three-hour ordeal.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 28 May 2004, around three thousand people took part in protests in Guadalajara during the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union. Although the demonstrations were generally peaceful, some demonstrators provoked violent incidents. The security forces responded by arresting around 100 people during the protests and in raids carried out later. Amnesty International reported that several of the detainees alleged they were tortured or threatened into making confessions or naming those suspected of violent acts (see *Mexico: Allegations of abuse dismissed in Guadalajara: reluctance to investigate human rights violations perpetuates impunity*, AMR 41/034/2004, December 2004). Eduardo Carvajal Avila, who was featured in that document, said he was trapped between demonstrators and police during the protest and was not involved in the violence. He was arrested and charged with aggravated robbery. He spent the following six months in prison. In custody, he reported that the police covered his head with a bag to asphyxiate him temporarily, while they insulted him and kicked him in the groin, neck and abdomen to make him sign a statement confessing to planning the violent acts committed by some demonstrators.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of human rights defender Patricia Barragán Reyes, Eduardo Carvajal Avila and other members of *Coordinadora 28 mayo*;
- calling for an impartial, prompt and full investigation into the alleged kidnapping, threats and intimidation, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to give immediate protection to Patricia Barragán Reyes and Eduardo Carvajal Avila in accordance with their wishes, and to guarantee the safety of all members of *Coordinadora 28 mayo* and those detained after the 28 May demonstrations;

- calling the authorities to investigate the claims of torture made by Eduardo Carvajal Avila and other detainees, and for anyone found to be guilty of torture or ill-treatment to be brought to justice;
- reminding the authorities that the UN Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Institutions to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties recognizes the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders and their right to carry out their activities without any restrictions or fear of reprisals.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of Jalisco

Gobernador de Jalisco

Lic. Francisco Ramírez Acuña

Palacio de Gobierno, Pedro Moreno y Corona,
Guadalajara 44100, Estado de Jalisco, MEXICO

Fax: + 52 33 3613 6047

Email: framirez@jalisco.gob.mx

Salutation: Dear Governor/Señor Gobernador

Attorney General of Jalisco

Lic. Gerardo Octavio Solís Gómez

Procurador del Estado de Jalisco

Calzada Independencia Norte 778, Col. Sectas Libertad
Guadalajara 44100, Estado de Jalisco, MEXICO

Fax: + 52 38 37 60 00 (ask for the fax: "*me da tono de fax por favor*")

Salutation: Dear Attorney/ Señor Procurador

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Santiago Creel

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

Email: santiagocreel@compuserve.com

Salutation: Señor Secretario / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Commission of Jalisco

Lic. Carlos Manuel Barba García

Presidente de la Comisión Estatal de Derechos Humanos de Jalisco

Obsidiana No. 2861, Residencial Victoria

44560, Zapopan, Jalisco, MEXICO

Fax: + 52 3 36 69 11 00 / 01

28 May Network

Coordinadora 28 de mayo

Email: enlace@otromayoquadalajara.org

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 18 March 2005.