

PUBLIC

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30 January 2008

UA 31/08 Fear for safety

MEXICO Adriana Sarmiento Enriquez (f), aged 15

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On 18 January, a 15 year-old girl, Adriana Sarmiento Enriquez, went missing in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua state. She is feared to have been abducted. Her life is at risk, as hundreds of women and girls have been murdered in Ciudad Juarez over the last 15 years. On a number of occasions, the authorities have failed to respond rapidly to reports of women and young girls going missing.

Adriana Sarmiento Enriquez was last seen in the afternoon of 18 January by her friends as she went to catch a bus home after attending school near the centre of Ciudad Juarez. Her family reported her disappearance to the authorities. Women's organizations, friends and relatives have distributed leaflets asking for witnesses who may have seen her to come forward. On 27 January, school friends held a demonstration demanding the authorities take more action to locate Adriana Sarmiento Enriquez. Two other young women who attended the same school were abducted and murdered in 2003 and 2004.

According to local human rights organizations, at least four girls and women have been killed in Ciudad Juarez in 2008. On 2 January, 20 year-old Johana Radilla Sánchez was sexually assaulted and murdered at the home of a relative. On 18 January, Maria Guadalupe Esparza Zavala died of a stab wound to the heart, reportedly at the hands of her partner. On January 20, 10 year-old Mirna Yeremia Munoz Ledo Marin was found inside her house. She had been sexually assaulted and stabbed to death. On 21 January, 38-year-old Ericka Sonora Trejo, who was eight months pregnant, was found beaten to death in the bathroom of her house. Police said they believe her father-in-law was responsible.

On 29 January, the National Human Rights Commission issued a report evaluating the steps taken by municipal, state and federal authorities to end the disappearance and murder of women in Ciudad Juarez. The report concluded the three tiers of government had not taken sufficient measures to end the pattern of violence against women.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At least 430 women and girls have been murdered in Ciudad Juarez and the city of Chihuahua since 1993 and more than 40 women and girls remain missing. Many of these murders occurred in different contexts and with different motives, but at least one-third have involved sexual violence and many were also the result of domestic violence. In 2003, intense national and international pressure led the federal and state governments to focus efforts on improving prevention and punishment of these crimes, with limited success. Nevertheless, less than half the murders committed have resulted in the perpetrator being convicted and sentenced by the courts and a third of cases remain under investigation. Furthermore, despite a federal prosecutor recommending more than 170 state and municipal officials face investigations for acts of negligence and omission in the handling of cases, no official has ever been brought to justice. Families and women's organizations continue to campaign for justice. Please refer to AI's report *Mexico: Intolerable Killings: 10 years of abductions and murder of women in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua*, AMR 41/026/2003: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/report/info/AMR41/026/2003>.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Adriana Sarmiento Enriquez, who was last seen in Ciudad Juarez on 18 January;
- calling on the authorities to ensure a rapid and effective police operation to investigate her disappearance and establish her whereabouts;

- urging prompt, full, effective and impartial investigations, enjoying the full collaboration of municipal, state and federal institutions, of all cases of women who have been murdered or gone missing in Chihuahua state;  
- calling for the authorities to take effective steps to prevent, investigate and punish violence against women in Chihuahua State and hold to account all officials implicated in acts of negligence or omission of previous investigations into violent crimes against women.

**APPEALS TO:**

Governor of Chihuahua State

Lic. José Reyes Baeza Terrazas  
Gobernador del Estado de Chihuahua  
Palacio de Gobierno, piso 1, C. Aldama #901, Col. Centro  
Chihuahua, Estado de Chihuahua, C.P. 31000, MEXICO

**Fax:** +52 614 4293300 ext. 11066

**Email:** [oacosta@chihuahua.gob.mx](mailto:oacosta@chihuahua.gob.mx) (secretary of the Governor)

**Salutation:** Dear Governor/Señor Gobernador

Chihuahua State Public Prosecutor

Patricia González Rodríguez  
Procuradora del Estado de Chihuahua, Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado  
Vicente Guerrero 616, Col. Centro, Chihuahua 31000, Estado de Chihuahua, MEXICO

**Fax:** +52 614 415 0314

**E-mail:** [pagonzale@buzon.chihuahua.mx](mailto:pagonzale@buzon.chihuahua.mx)

**Salutation:** Dear Public Prosecutor/ Señora Procuradora General

Federal Interior Minister

Lic. Juan Camilo Mouriño Terrazo  
Secretaría de Gobernación  
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso,  
Col. Juárez, Del. Cuauhtémoc  
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**Fax:** (+52 55) 5093 3414

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**Salutation:** Señor Secretario / Dear Minister

**COPIES TO:**

President of the National Human Rights Commission

Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández, Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos  
Periférico Sur 3469, 5º piso, Col. San Jerónimo Lídice, México D.F. 10200, MEXICO

Human Rights organization

Nuestras Hijas de Regreso a Casa

**Email:** [nuestrashijas@gmail.com](mailto:nuestrashijas@gmail.com)

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 13 March 2008.