

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 41/06/95
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UA 36/95 Fear of torture / Fear of "disappearance" 15 February 1995

MEXICO Alfredo JIMÉNEZ SANTÍS, Tojolabal Indian
Mario ÁLVAREZ, Tojolabal Indian

The whereabouts of Alfredo Jiménez Santís and Mario Álvarez are unknown. They were reportedly detained by members of the Mexican army in Ejido Chiapas, Municipality of Las Margaritas, state of Chiapas, on 9 February 1995 and have not been seen since. Amnesty International fears for their safety.

The two men are Tojolabal Indians and are both members of the *Central Independiente de Obreros Agrícolas y Campesinos* (CIOAC), Independent Union of Rural and Peasant Workers. Their detention would appear to be part of the current official clampdown against alleged members and sympathizers of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN). Concern for their safety has been greatly heightened by reports of the torture of others detained by police between 8 and 10 February (see UA 31/95, AMR 41/02/95, 13 February and follow-up AMR 41/05/95, 14 February).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In a press statement on 9 February, President Ernesto Zedillo called for the arrest of several EZLN leaders, including sub-commander Marcos, whom he named as Rafael Sebastián Guillén Vicente. The President also named four other alleged leaders of the EZLN and arrest warrants were issued against all five.

In the light of recent events, Amnesty International fears further human rights violations. In the armed clashes between government and EZLN forces which began on 1 January 1994, at least 145 people are reported to have died before a cease-fire was called in mid-January 1994. Amnesty International has documented widespread human rights violations in the context of the ongoing conflict, including the summary execution of prisoners, extensive use of torture, and "disappearances" perpetrated by members of the Mexican Army. To date no member of the security forces has been brought to justice for these violations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters either in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Alfredo Jiménez Santís and Mario Álvarez following their reported detention by members of the Mexican army in Ejido Chiapas, Municipality of Las Margaritas, state of Chiapas, on 9 February 1995, especially in view of reports of recent abuses against detainees;
- requesting an immediate and impartial investigation into the whereabouts of the two Tojolabal Indians and asking to be kept informed of any findings;
- urging that, if in detention, they be humanely treated and allowed access to relatives, doctors interpreters and lawyers, and charged with a recognizable offense or released immediately.

APPEALS TO

1) President of the Republic
Lic. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León
Presidente de la República
Palacio Nacional
06067 México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: Presidente Zedillo, México D.F., Mexico
Telexes: 170937 sppnme; 1774468 sppnme
Faxes: + 52 5 271 1764
Salutation: Sr. Presidente/Dear President

2) Minister of the Interior

Lic. Esteban Moctezuma Barragán
 Secretario de Gobernación
 Secretaría de Gobernación
 Bucareli 99, 1er. piso
 Col. Juárez
 06699 México DF, MEXICO

Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México D.F, Mexico
Faxes: +52 5 592 0584
Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister

3) Minister of Defence

Gral. Enrique Cervantes Aguirre
 Secretario de la Defensa Nacional
 Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional
 Blvd. Manuel Ávila Camacho y
 Avda. Industria Militar
 Col. Lomas de Sotelo
 11640 México DF, MEXICO

Telegrams: Secretario Defensa, México D.F., Mexico
Faxes: (+52 5) 557 1370 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")
Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Human rights organization

Sres. CONPAZ
 Chiapa de Corzo 19, El Cerrillo
 San Cristóbal de las Casas
 29220 Chiapas, Mexico

2) Human rights organization

Sres. Centro de Derechos Humanos
 San Bartolomé de las Casas
 5 de Febrero No. 6
 San Cristóbal de las Casas
 29200 Chiapas, Mexico

3) Daily newspaper

Sr. Editor
 La Jornada
 Balderas 68
 06050 México D.F., 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 30 March 1995.