

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/008/2003

20 February 2003

**Further Information on UA36/03 (AMR 41/005/2003, 7 February 2003) Fear for safety/ possible "disappearance"**

|        |                  |  |
|--------|------------------|--|
| MEXICO | Killed           | Esmeralda Juárez Alarcón (f), aged 16<br>Erika Abigail Loera Varela (f), aged 26 |
|        | Killed<br>Killed | Violeta Mabel Alvidrez (f), aged 18<br>Juana Sandoval Reyna (f), aged 17         |

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Esmeralda Juárez, who was reported missing on 8 January 2003, has been found dead in a deserted area of Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua state. Her body was discovered in close proximity to the bodies of two other young women. There is no further information about the whereabouts of Erika Abigail Loera, who was reportedly last seen on 20 December 2002 and Amnesty International is seriously concerned for her safety.

On 17 February 2003, state police officers (*agentes de la Dirección General de Seguridad Pública*) searched a deserted area in Ciudad Juárez known as *Cerro del Cristo Negro*, after being alerted by people in the area that three bodies had been found. Days earlier, municipal police had reportedly searched the area after an anonymous tip off, but had found nothing.

The authorities have identified Esmeralda Juárez as one of the dead women. The other two young victims have been identified as Violeta Mabel Alvidrez, aged 18 and Juana Sandoval Reyna, aged 17. The two young women had not been seen since 4 February 2003 and 23 September 2002 respectively.

According to reports, the three victims, discovered among mounds of rubbish, were half-naked and two of them were found with their hands tied behind their backs. The women had reportedly been raped and killed following the pattern of other murders of young women in the state. The Attorney General of the state of Chihuahua (*Procurador General de Justicia del Estado de Chihuahua*) has said that searches of the area will continue. According to reports, to date, more than twenty young women have been found dead in the same area.

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

- expressing grave concern for the safety of Erika Abigail Loera and calling on the authorities to continue the investigations into her whereabouts;
- urging an immediate investigation with the full collaboration of state and federal institutions, of the murders of the three women and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- reiterating to the authorities the urgent necessity of a full, effective and impartial investigation of all cases of women who have been murdered or gone missing in Chihuahua state in similar circumstances;
- calling on the authorities to take effective steps to prevent, investigate and punish violence against women in Chihuahua state.

**APPEALS TO:**

President of the Republic  
Lic. Vicente Fox Quesada  
Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos

Residencia Oficial de "Los Pinos"  
Col. San Miguel Chapultepec  
México D.F., C.P. 11850  
Mexico

**Telegrams:** President, Mexico D.F., Mexico  
**Fax:** + 52 55 5 2 77 23 76  
**Salutation:** Señor Presidente / Dear Mr President

Governor of Chihuahua State

Lic. Patricio Martínez  
Aldama 901  
Colonia Centro  
Chihuahua State  
Mexico

**Fax:** + 52 614 429 3300 ext 1141  
**Salutation:** Dear Governor / Señor Gobernador

Attorney General of the Republic

General Rafael Marcial Macedo de la Concha  
**Procurador General de la Republica**  
**Procuraduría General de la República**  
Reforma Norte esq.Violeta 75  
Col. Guerrero  
Delegación Cuauhtémoc  
México D.F., C.P. 06300  
Mexico

**Fax:** +525 55 346 0983 (if someone answers, ask for the fax: *pedir tono de fax, por favor*)  
**Salutation:** Señor Procurador General / Dear Attorney General

Lic. Jesús José Solís  
Procurador General de Justicia del Estado de Chihuahua  
Calle Vicente Guerrero 616  
Col Centro  
Chihuahua State  
CP. 31000  
Mexico

**Fax:** +52 614 415 0314  
**Salutation:** Dear Attorney General/ Señor Procurador

**COPIES TO:**

Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos A.C. (CMDPDH)

Tehuantepec 155  
Col. Roma Sur  
Mexico DF  
CP 5584 2731

**Email:** [cmdpdh@laneta.apc.org](mailto:cmdpdh@laneta.apc.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 3 April 2003.