

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of torture / Fear for safety

17 February 1995

MEXICO Ramiro ARCINIEGA MARTÍNEZ, teacher and union leader
Gustavo CERVANTES PÉREZ, 22
Martha CARRILLO LÓPEZ (f), 19
Javier ROSAS GÓMEZ
Francisco ARANDA TINAJERO, union leader
V́ctor Hugo GARCÍA SANTIAGO, 23
Francisco GUERRERO HERNÁNDEZ
Santiago NERI HERNÁNDEZ
Gregorio GARCÍA RANGEL
Cirilo and Esteban RAMOS HERNÁNDEZ, brothers
Carlota MAUS ORTIZ (f)
Pedro MARAÑÓN RODRÍGUEZ
Pedro GARCÍA LUGO
Facundo HERNÁNDEZ RAMÍREZ
Adolfo LÓPEZ FRANCO
Ezequiel CORTÉS ESTRADA
Maximiliano DAMARCA RIVERA
Armando VENTURA MARTÍNEZ
Joaquín TREJO MARTÍNEZ

Fears for the safety of 20 people detained by members of the security forces during the current official clampdown against alleged members and sympathizers of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) have been heightened by reports that at least one of them has been tortured in custody.

Ramiro Arciniega Mart́nez, school head teacher and leader of the teachers' union in Tehuacán, state of Puebla, was detained by members of the army and the *Policía Judicial Federal (PJF)*, Federal Judicial Police, on 11 February.

On 12 February he was taken to the *Reclusorio Oriente*, a prison in Mexico City, where he reportedly told a judge that he had been tortured to force him to confess his alleged involvement with the EZLN.

Gustavo Cervantes Pérez and Martha Carrillo López were detained in Guadalajara, state of Jalisco on 10 February and reportedly accused of keeping an arms cache.

Javier Rosas Gómez, accused of being an EZLN member, was detained in the town of Tezonapa, state of Veracruz, by PJF members on 11 February. Their place of detention is not known. Francisco Aranda Tinajero, leader of the *Coalición Obrero Campesina Estudiantil de Sonocusco (COCES)*, Coalition of Workers, Peasants and Students of Sonocusco, was reportedly detained in Tapachula, state of Chiapas, on 11 February. He is presently at the *Penal Tres*, a prison in Tapachula. Víctor Hugo García Santiago was reportedly detained on 11 February by PJF members, in Orizaba, state of Veracruz. He is presently held at the PJF's police station in *El Fortín de las Flores*, in the state of Veracruz.

The 14 other people listed above were reportedly detained in Jacala, state of Hidalgo by 200 members of the security forces. They were all taken to the local Attorney General's Office (*Procuraduría General de la República*) in the city of Pachuca, state of Hidalgo.

Amnesty International has received reports of the torture and ill-treatment of at least 15 people detained by the security forces during the last few days (see UA 31/95, AMR 41/02/95, 13 February and follow up AMR 41/05/95, 14 February; also UA 36/95, AMR 41/06/95, 15 February, and follow-up AMR 41/08/95, 16

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 released the names of four other alleged leaders of the EZLN and arrest warrants were issued against all five. Arrest warrants were also issued against several other alleged EZLN members.

Amnesty International fears that recent events may result in further human rights violations. In the earlier armed clashes 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. In the period 1 January 1994 to the present 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/express and airmail letters either in Spanish or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the reported torture of Ramiro Arciniega Martínez by members of the Federal Judicial Police;
- calling for a prompt and impartial investigation into these allegations and for those responsible to be brought to justice; asking to be kept informed of the outcome of these investigations;
- urging immediate measures to ensure the physical and mental integrity of all detainees (naming some of the above), and seeking assurances that all are being humanely treated and are being allowed immediate access to doctors, their relatives and lawyers.

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.
Departamento de Derechos Humanos
Arquidiócesis de México
Durango 90, 7 piso, Col. Roma
06700 México DF, 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 1 April 1995.