

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Threats / Intimidation

3 May 1995

MEXICO

Consuelo Morales (f), director of CADHAC  
Victor (family name unknown), member of CADHAC  
Amelia Zabala (f), member of CADHAC

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There is serious concern for the safety of human rights activists belonging to the Mexican human rights organization *Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos, A.C., CADHAC*, Citizens for Human Rights, in the state of Nuevo León, after three of them were threatened by an unidentified armed man on 27 April 1995.

On that day, Consuelo Morales, Victor, and Amelia Zabala were twice followed by a car as they were leaving the office. On the second occasion, the driver of the car followed them into a restaurant, sat by them and threatened them, showing them his gun. Cristian Rojas from the National Commission of Human Rights, who was visiting the CADHAC offices, witnessed the threats.

This incident is the latest in a series of intimidatory acts and threats which began in November 1994, including anonymous threats of kidnapping or "disappearance" against CADHAC members. For example, on 25 April a piece of music was recorded on the answering machine of Consuelo Morales, director of the centre. The same music has been used to threaten human rights activists in the recent past. On the night of 9 April, the CADHAC offices were raided by unidentified individuals and information, material and money taken. On 18 March, the office windows were found to have been tampered with.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members of the Church and grassroots organizations who have been active in promoting and protecting human rights in Mexico, have frequently encountered opposition from the local authorities, wealthy landowners and police. Father Samuel Ruiz, Bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, along with other fathers and seminarist have been followed and threatened by unidentified individuals (see UA 102/94, AMR 41/05/94, 14 March 1994 and UA 46/95, AMR 41/10/95, 21 February 1995).

On 10 February 1995, the offices of CONPAZ (*Coordinación de Organismos no Gubernamentales por la Paz*), the Coordination of non-governmental organizations working for peace, in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, were raided by members of the Mexican Federal Judicial Police (PFJ). Members of CONPAZ are reported to have been followed by the police when they left their offices shortly before the raid.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of human rights activists belonging to CADHAC in the state of Nuevo León, who continue to be the subject of threats and intimidation, apparently because of their work in the area, urging immediate measures to guarantee their physical integrity;
- urging a prompt and thorough investigation into all the incidents and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take measures to ensure the safety of all human rights workers and church members in Mexico.

**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 5 566 8406; 546 7388****Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister****COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**Human rights organizations:

## 1) Sres. CADHAC

Serafin Peña y E. Zapata

N 4417, Col. Guadalupe Victoria

Cd, Guadalupe, N.L.

C.P. 67180

Estado de Nuevo Leon, Mexico

## 2) National Human Rights Commission

Sres

Comision Nacional de Derechos Humanos

Periférico Sur 3469

Col. San Jerónimo Lídice

10200 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 17 June 1995.