

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/15/98

UA 86/98 Fear for safety/ Possible extrajudicial execution 17 March 1998

MEXICO Members of the OCSS

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of members of the Southern Sierra Peasant Organisation, *Organización Campesina Sierra del Sur* (OCSS), following the death of one of their leaders on 15 March 1998. Santiago Luna Reina was gunned down by an unidentified group of heavily armed masked men near the town of Tepetixtla, Guerrero State. Amnesty fears that OCSS members may be subjected to further human rights violations by both members of the security forces and paramilitary groups acting with the complicity of the authorities.

Witnesses have reported that the attack was carried out by paramilitary groups with strong links to the *Partido Revolucionario Institucional* (PRI), Institutional Revolutionary Party, the ruling party in Mexico.

Members of the OCSS have frequently been targeted by the security forces in Guerrero State, on unfounded grounds that the organisation is linked to the *Ejército Popular Revolucionario* (EPR), Revolutionary Popular Army, an armed opposition group operating in the region. The EPR came into force in June 1996, in the states of Guerrero and Oaxaca, on the first anniversary of a massacre in which 17 people were killed, many of them members of the OCSS.

Dozens of human rights violations, including extrajudicial execution, "disappearance" and torture, have been carried out against members of the OCSS. The perpetrators have been allowed to act with total impunity.

(see EXTRA 91/96, AMR 41/26/96, 11 June 1996; and follow-ups; UA 30/97, AMR 41/03/97, 28 January 1997; UA 110/97, AMR 41/24/97, 22 April 1997; UA 172/97, AMR 41/42/97, 13 June 1997; and follow-up AMR 41/88/97, 22 September 1997).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in or your own language:

- calling for an immediate investigation to be opened into the killing of Santiago Luna Reina and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- requesting that measures be taken by the authorities to guarantee the safety of all members of the *Organización Campesina Sierra del Sur* (OCSS), Southern Sierra Peasant Organisation;
- expressing alarm at the number of cases of gross human rights violations carried out against members of the OCSS, reportedly by members of the security forces as well as paramilitary groups.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of Guerrero State
Lic. Angel Eladio Aguirre Rivero
Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero
Palacio de Gobierno
Plaza Central, Primer Congreso de
Anahuac
Chilpancingo 39000
Estado de Guerrero
MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador del Estado, Guerrero, México

Fax: (+52 747) 2 8319

Salutations: Sr. Gobernador/ Dear Governor

Attorney General of Guerrero State

Lic. Servando Alanis Santos
Procurador del Estado de Guerrero
Carretera México-Acapulco Km. 6300
Chilpancingo 39000
Estado de Guerrero
MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador del Estado, Guerrero, México

Fax: (+52 747) 22328

Salutations: Sr. Procurador/ Dear State Attorney

COPIES TO:

Human rights organisation

Centro de Derechos Humanos

"Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C.

Serapio Rendon 57-B

Col. San Rafael, 06470

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 28 April 1998.