

EXTERNAL

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UA 97/96

Fear for safety

4 April 1996

MEXICO Teresa Jardí (f), lawyer, human rights defender

Héctor Gutiérrez Ugalde (m)

Julián Andrade Jardí (m), lawyer, human rights defender

At 3am on 4 April 1996, Dr Teresa Jardí, a renowned human rights defender, received anonymous threats on the telephone at her home in Mexico City. This is the latest incident among several affecting Dr Teresa Jardí, her son, Dr Julián Andrade Jardí, and Héctor Gutiérrez Ugalde, an employee of the latter. Amnesty International is deeply concerned for the safety of all three.

A few days earlier, on 27 March 1996 at around 6pm, Héctor Gutiérrez Ugalde was abducted near Dr Teresa Jardí's home, in Coyoacán, Mexico City, by three unidentified men who forced him into a vehicle. He was taken to an unidentified house in the outskirts of Mexico City. When he asked his abductors who they were and to show an arrest warrant, he was beaten in the head, kicked in the body, and threatened with death. He was also ordered to tell his employer, Dr Julián Andrade Jardí, and Dr Teresa Jardí that they would be killed for their work. Héctor Gutiérrez Ugalde was released later that night after being driven by his captors out of Mexico City. A complaint was presented on the following day but those responsible have remained at large.

Dr Julián Andrade is presently working as an advisor for the governmental *Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos*, National Human Rights Commission, carrying out research into the files of members of the security forces reportedly dismissed for contravening the law, including perpetrating human rights violations. In many cases, those dismissed from one force are reportedly hired by another, thus perpetuating impunity for the perpetrators. It is believed that Héctor Gutiérrez Ugalde was targeted to intimidate the Jardís into stopping their human rights work.

Two more disturbing incidents occurred on 1 and 2 April, when several unidentified men arrived at the **Fondo Para la Asistencia y el Desarrollo**, FAPRODE, the non-governmental organization for which Dr Teresa Jardí works in Mexico City, looking for her. FAPRODE was closed for holidays, and the men failed to identify themselves when requested to do so by neighbours.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is seriously alarmed about the increasing number of reports of attacks and threats against people advocating human rights in Mexico.

For example, on 26 March 1996. Gina Batista, a reporter and program director for **Canal 40**, a Mexican TV channel, survived unharmed after she was shot at by unidentified individuals driving a vehicle which intercepted her car in Mexico City. The attackers also hurled threats against her for her work as a journalist. In an apparently unrelated incident, on that same day, José Luis Robledo and Sonia Lara, grass roots activists working for **Coordinación de Solidaridad con las Luchas Alternativas**, Coordination of Solidarity with Alternative Struggle, an NGO in Mexico City, reportedly received up to ten anonymous telephone calls threatening them with death for their activities on behalf of neighbours' rights in Mexico City (see UA 95/96, AMR 41/16/96, 4 April 1996).

Journalists, human rights defenders and members of grassroots organizations who have been active in publicizing human rights violations, or promoting and protecting human rights in Mexico, have frequently encountered opposition against their work people believed to be linked to the authorities, and there has been an alarming increase in the threats and attacks suffered by this sector of the population in the last year (see also UA 47/96 AMR 41/12/96, 27 February 1996; UA 27/96, AMR 41/04/96, 2 February; UA 12/96, AMR 41/02/96 22 January; UA 09/96, AMR 41/01/96, 16 January; UA 203/95, AMR 41/19/95, 18 August 1995; UA 157/95, AMR 41/14/95, 4 July and UA 105/95, AMR 41/11/95, 3 May).

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

- expressing grave concern about the attack against Hector Gutiérrez Ugalde and the threats against Dr Teresa Jardí and her son Dr Julián Andrade Jardí;
- calling for immediate measures to guarantee the safety of all three;
- urging a prompt and thorough investigation into the attack and threats and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to step up effective measures to ensure the safety of all human rights defenders in Mexico and politely requesting to be informed about which measures are to be implemented to ensure such protection.

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., México

Telexes: 170937 sppnme; 1774468 sppnme

Faxes: + 52 5 271 1764

Salutation: Sr. President/Dear President

2) Minister of the Interior

Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor
 Secretario de la Gobernación
 Secretaría de la Gobernación
 Bucareli 99, 1er piso
 Col. Juárez
 06699, México DF, MÉXICO

Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México D.F., México

Faxes: + 52 5 546 7388

Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

1) Weekly magazine

Sr. Editor
 La Jornada
 Balderas 68
 06050, México D.F., MÉXICO

2) Human Rights Organization

Sres.
 Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles
 de Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para Todos"

Puebla 153, Col, Roma
06700, México D.F., MÉXICO

and to diplomatic representatives of México accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 May 1996.