

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/17/00

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 20 per section

UA 78/00

Fear for

MEXICO Leonel Guadalupe Rivero Rodríguez, lawyer

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Leonel Guadalupe Rivero Rodríguez, a lawyer who has reportedly been intimidated in the context of his defence of some twenty students in a high profile case in Mexico City, the capital.

On the evening of 29 March 2000 his home was broken into and there was an attempt to steal his computer, containing files on the case.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 1 and 7 February authorities attempted to bring to an end a strike by students at the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* (UNAM), National Autonomous University of Mexico, with the arrest and detention of nearly 1000 students (see UA 27/00, AMR 41/03/00, 3 February 2000 and follow ups), most of whom have since been released.

UNAM students had gone on strike in April 1999 in protest at proposed reforms to the University system, most notably a planned increase in tuition fees.

During the strike Amnesty International documented several attacks on students involved by unknown individuals. These included abductions, torture and beatings, with some even being subjected to simulated executions (see News Service 109/99, AMR 41/09/99, 4 June 1999 and UA 278/99, AMR 41/28/99, 22 October 1999 and follow up).

On 2 January 2000 Juan de Dios Hernández Monje and Pilar Noriega García, defence lawyers acting on behalf of some of the students, received verbal death threats and Juan de Dios Hernández Monje was hit in the face (see UA 03/00, AMR 41/01/00, 6 January 2000).

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

- expressing concern that the home of Leonel Guadalupe Rivero Rodríguez, a defence lawyer representing detained UNAM students, has reportedly been broken into, apparently for the sole purpose of stealing his computer containing information about the cases;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee his safety and his right to freely carry out his legal responsibilities;
- calling for a prompt and independent investigation into the attempted robbery at his home, asking that the findings be made public and that those responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior
Lic. Diódoro Carrasco Altamirano
Secretario de Gobernación
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso
Col. Juárez, C.P.06699

México D.F., MEXICO

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

Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350

Salutation: Señor Secretario / Dear Minister

Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo

Procurador General de la República

Av Reforma, esq. Violeta

Col Guerrero

México D.F., CP 06300

MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador General República, México D.F., Mexico

Faxes: + 52 5 346 0906

Salutation: Señor Procurador General / Dear Attorney General

National Commission for Human Rights

Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández

Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDH)

Av. Chapultepec N° 49, 1er Piso, Centro, Cuauhtémoc,

06040 México, DF, Mexico

Faxes: + 52 5 681 8490

Salutation: Estimado Dr. Soberanes / Dear Dr. Soberanes

COPIES TO:

Human Rights organization (non-governmental organization)

Centro de Derechos Humanos

"Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C.

Serapio Rendon 57-B

Col. San Rafael

06470 México D.F. Mexico

Faxes: + 52 5 535 6892

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 15 May 2000.