

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 41/20/94

Distr: UA/SC

UA 390/94

Torture/Fear for safety

31 October 1994

MEXICO

Demetrio HERNÁNDEZ ROJAS

Félix FERNÁNDEZ ESTRADA

Diego GARCÍA BAUTISTA

Cruz MARTÍNEZ HERNÁNDEZ

Eladio TORRES FLORES

Jaime LAGUNA BERBER

Demetrio Hernández Rojas was reportedly tortured following his detention on 19 October 1994 in Ciudad Netzahualcóyotl, state of México, by members of the security forces. It is believed that Félix Fernández Estrada, detained on 20 October 1994, may also have been tortured. Reports indicate that Demetrio Hernández had electricity applied to several parts of his body, was beaten and nearly suffocated and had carbonated water with chili powder forced into his nose. Both Demetrio Hernández and Félix Fernández are former political prisoners and took part in the National Democratic Convention (*Convención Nacional Democrática, CND*) in August 1994. They remain in detention, charged in connection with an explosion in Mexico City in January 1994.

According to reports, the authorities have also issued arrest warrants against Jaime Laguna Berber, Diego García Bautista, Cruz Martínez Hernández and Eladio Torres Flores, all participants in the CND. A house formerly occupied by Jaime Laguna Berber was raided on the night of 20 October by members of the security forces with the intention of arresting him. Jaime Laguna Berber was not there at the time. Meanwhile, Diego García Bautista, another former political prisoner, has reportedly received threatening telephone calls.

Amnesty International fears that these people, if arrested, may be subjected to torture or ill-treatment and calls for immediate measures to safeguard their physical integrity.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The National Democratic Convention was organized by grassroots and human rights groups in the state of Chiapas during the first week of August 1994, as an alternative forum to discuss political reform and the general elections. Members of the *Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN)*, Zapatista Army of National Liberation, who staged an armed uprising in Chiapas in January 1994, were present at the convention.

David Ángel Lozano Tovar, a student activist from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)'s Student Council, who also attended the National Democratic Convention, was abducted in Mexico City on 2 September 1994 by four unidentified armed men believed to be members of the security forces. He was reportedly tortured and questioned about his activities during the CNDH. He was released on 3 September (see UA 325/94, AMR 41/16/94, 7 September 1994).

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 Demetrio Hernández Rojas at

the hands of the security forces;

-requesting a prompt and impartial investigation into these allegations and calling for those responsible to be brought to justice;

-urging immediate measures to ensure the physical integrity of Félix Fernández Estrada, Jaime Laguna Berber, Diego García Bautista, Cruz Martínez Hernández and Eladio Torres Flores.

APPEALS TO

1) President of the Republic

Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari

Presidente de la República

Palacio Nacional

06067 México D.F., Mexico

Telegrams: Presidente Salinas, México D.F., Mexico

Telexes: 170937 sppnme; 1774468 sppnme

Faxes: +52 5 271 1764

Salutation: Sr. Presidente/Dear President

2) Interior Minister

Dr Jorge Carpizo McGregor

Secretario de Gobernación

Secretaría de Gobernación

Bucarelli 99, 1er piso

Colonia Juárez

06669 México DF, MEXICO

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

Telexes: 1774376, 1774375

Faxes: +52 5 703 2171

Salutation: Sr. Secretario de Gobernación/Dear Minister

3) Attorney General's Office

Lic Humberto Benítez Treviño

Procurador General de la República

Procuraduría General de la República

Paseo de la Reforma y Violeta

Colonia Guerrero

06300 Mexico DF, MEXICO

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

Telexes: 1777572

Faxes: +52 5 626 4430

Salutation: Sr Procurador General/Dear Attorney General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) National Human Rights Commission

Sres.

Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos

Periférico Sur 3469

Col San Jerónimo Lídice

10200 México DF, Mexico

2) Daily newspaper

Sr. Editor

El Financiero

Lago Bolsena 176

Col. Anáhuac
11320 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 12 December 1994.