

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/23/96

10 May 1996

Further information on UA 120/96 (AMR 41/21/96, 7 May 1996) - Fear for safety

MEXICO Alberto Velázquez, human rights activist
Guillermo Godínez Ramírez, human rights activist
Ricardo Ayala López, human rights activist
Jaime Ramírez Maza, human rights activist
Francisco Molina Cortez and his wife, human rights activists
Amando Herrera Ríos, aged 76, member of the Jesuit community
Eugenio Maurer Abalós, Jesuit priest
Alberto Velázquez Cruz, member of the Jesuit community
Salvador Quintero González, member of the Jesuit community
Pablo Olivares Martínez, Jesuit priest

New names: Rafael Vera, assistant bishop
José Avilés, Jesuit Father, human rights activist

Amnesty International has received more information about the situation in Bachajón, state of Chiapas, which reinforces its concern for the safety of inhabitants of the community. The organization fears that the latest developments may herald an outbreak of violence against indigenous people, peasants and human rights workers in the area which may result in gross human rights violations.

On the night of 8 May 1996, the paramilitary group "*Los Chincholines*", together with some local farmers, reportedly decided in a common meeting to kill Father José Aviles, who is the coordinator of the *Centro de Derechos Indígenas A.C.*, CEDIAC, Centre for the Defence of Indigenous Rights A.C. as well as a member of the *Red Nacional de los Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para Todos"*, National Network of Non-governmental Human Rights Organizations "Full Rights for All", and Pablo Olivares Martinez, one of the Jesuit priests who was in the church at the time of the paramilitary attack on 5 May 1996 (see original action).

Since 9 May, members of "*Los Chincholines*" have been monitoring the entrance of the CEDIAC office. Neighbours, who since 5 May have been hiding in their houses, have reportedly heard the paramilitaries saying "*en cuanto que llegue alguno de derechos humanos lo matamos*" (As soon as the human rights activists arrive here we'll kill them").

On 4 May Father José Aviles left his residence to give a lift to a visitor with whom he was working. A car that was outside his residence followed them all over the city.

On 6 May, Rafael Vera, the assistant bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas, was stopped by some members of the paramilitary group who insulted him and threatened to set fire to his vehicle. He has reportedly now returned safely to San Cristobal de las Casas.

A few journalists who tried to enter Bachajón were threatened, and film were confiscated from some of the photographers, who eventually managed to take some pictures. They were reportedly told: "*Váyanse a la chingada o les vamos a partir la madre, pinches periodistas perreristas...*". ("Go away or we are going to beat you up, stupid journalist members of PRD). They accused them

of belonging to the opposition party *Partido de la Revolución Democrática*, PRD, Democratic Revolutionary Party.

A total of 23 houses and at least six cars have been burned deliberately, and the electricity supply, and some of the water supply, has been cut. On 8 May the security forces ordered the closure of all shops.

THIS IS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. PLEASE CONTINUE TO SEND APPEALS AS OUTLINED IN THE ORIGINAL ACTION, INCORPORATING THIS LATEST INFORMATION IF POSSIBLE. Please note new fax number for Governor of Chiapas: +52 961 20917