

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/23/00

18 May 2000

Further information on UA 78/00 (AMR 41/17/00, 5 April 2000) - Fear for safety / Intimidation

MEXICO Leonel Guadalupe Rivero Rodríguez, lawyer

Lawyer Leonel Guadalupe Rivero Rodríguez has had his windows smashed, in a further act of intimidation apparently linked to his work defending striking students and alleged members of an armed opposition group.

Several rocks were thrown through the windows of his house on 12 May, at about 10.30pm. Amnesty International believes that this attack is part of a pattern of intimidation of human rights lawyers intended to prevent them from carrying out legitimate legal defence work.

Leonel Guadalupe Rivero Rodríguez represents some 20 students detained in mass arrests at the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* (UNAM), National Autonomous University of Mexico in February (see UA 27/00, AMR 41/03/00, 3 February 2000, and follow ups).

His house was broken into on 29 March 2000 in an apparent attempt to steal files on the UNAM case. Two other lawyers representing UNAM students have also been threatened, and one of them has been assaulted twice (see UA 03/00, AMR41/01/00, 6 January 2000, and follow up).

Leonel Guadalupe Rivero Rodríguez is one of two lawyers involved in another high profile case, representing two alleged members of the armed opposition group *Ejército Revolucionario del Pueblo Insurgente* (ERPI), Revolutionary Army of the Insurgent People, arrested in October 1999 (see UA 299/99, AMR 41/32/99, 15 November 1999).

Shortly after the attack Leonel Guadalupe Rivero Rodríguez filed a formal complaint with the local Public Ministry (*Ministerio Público*), in Ecatepec de Morelos, México state.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Leonel Guadalupe Rivero Rodríguez, a lawyer representing detained UNAM students, after rocks were thrown through the windows of his house;
- calling on the authorities to ensure his safety and that of other lawyers representing UNAM students facing criminal charges;
- reminding the authorities of their responsibility to ensure that lawyers representing people charged with criminal offences are not intimidated;
- calling for a prompt and thorough investigation into the 12 May attack on the Leonel Guadalupe Rivero Rodríguez's house, asking for the results to be made public and those responsible to be brought to justice;
- asking to be informed of the results of the investigation into the 29 March break-in at his house.

APPEALS TO:

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

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

Governor of the State of México

Lic. Arturo Montiel Rojas
Gobernador del Estado de México
Palacio de Gobierno, 1er Piso
Lerso No. 300 Poniente, Col. Centro
Toluca 50000, Estado de México
MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador, Estado México, México
Fax: + 52 72 14 41 72
Salutation: Señor Gobernador / Dear Governor

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 29 June 2000.