

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/25/96

UA 139/96 Fear for safety / Possible extrajudicial execution 10 June 1996

MEXICO PRD members and supporters in Cuadrilla Nueva, Guerrero state

Jesús Nuriostegui Gaona, aged 50, peasant activist, PRD member

Amnesty International is deeply concerned for the safety of members and supporters of the opposition *Partido de la Revolución Democrática*, PRD, Democratic Revolution Party, in Cuadrilla Nueva, municipality of Cutzamala de Pinzón, Guerrero State. Tension and fear in the community has grown since the recent killing of Jesús Nuriostegui Gaona in the latest attack against those whose names are said to appear on a "death list". It is feared that more people named on the list, allegedly compiled by a local "cacique" (rancher), may be targeted at any time.

According to a witness, on 18 May 1996 Jesús Nuriostegui Gaona, a PRD member and a former municipal representative was shot four times by unidentified gunmen. His wife and six children have left the community in fear for their safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Celestino Hernández Gutiérrez, 45, peasant and PRD member, was shot dead on 5 May 1995, reportedly by "guardias blancas", "white guards" - gunmen hired by local *caciques*. He had been threatened previously. He left a widow and six children, one of whom, Claudio Hernández Palacios, 23, also a PRD member, survived an attempt on his life on 24 January 1996. He was shot 10 times while in his home in Cuadrilla Nueva in front of six other PRD members.

Eustorgio Baza Mundo, 38, peasant and a PRD municipal representative, was abducted and killed (shot at close range in the back of the head) on 27 June 1995 by unidentified men driving a car without licence plates. He had been threatened before. He had a wife and three children.

Andrés Rosales Aguirre, 35, former president of the local PRD committee, was attacked in his home on 21 March 1995, which left him on crutches. He was threatened again in November 1995 and remains in fear for his life.

All those named above appear on the alleged death list.

Active members of grassroots organizations or political parties which challenge the rule and dominant power structures of the *Partido Revolucionario Institucional*, PRI, Institutional Revolutionary Party, which has governed Mexico for more than 60 years, continue to face human rights violations. Prominent among the victims of political repression in Mexico are the members of the PRD, a centre-to-left political party with a large following among the poor, including Indian peasants.

The PRD claims to have documented 292 murders of party activists across the country between July 1988 and January 1995. In most cases those responsible for the attacks, including *guardias blancas* reportedly hired by local *caciques*, acted with the acquiescence of local authorities and have remained unpunished.

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

- expressing serious concern for the safety of inhabitants of Cuadrilla Nueva, Guerrero State, particularly members of the *Partido de la Revolución Democrática*, following a series of killings, including that of Jesús Nuriostegui Gaona on 18 May 1996;
- calling for an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the killings, and into the reported existence of a "death list", in order to bring those responsible to justice;
- calling for immediate steps to be taken to ensure the safety of the inhabitants of Cuadrilla Nueva, particularly those named on the alleged list.

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 5 515 1794 / 542 1648
Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President

2) Interim Governor of Guerrero State

Ángel Aguirre Rivero
 Gobernador Interino del Estado de Guerrero
 Palacio de Gobierno
 Plaza Primer Congreso de Anahuac
 Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico C.P. 39000
Faxes: +52 747 23072 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax por favor")
Telegrams: Gobernador Aguirre, Guerrero, Mexico
Salutation: Sr.Gobernador/Dear Governor

3) 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, MEXICO
Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México D.F., México
Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350
Salutation: Sr. Secretario / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:Human Rights Organization

Centro de Derechos Humanos "Miguel Agustín Pro"
Faxes: +525 208 7547
E-mail: prodh@laneta.apc.org

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 10 July 1996.