

**MEXICO Faustino Jiménez Alvarez**

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Police reportedly seized Faustino Jiménez Alvarez from his home in Guerrero state on 17 June. The authorities have since denied having him in custody, despite repeated requests from his family, and his whereabouts are now unknown. Amnesty International is gravely concerned for his safety.

Faustino Jiménez Alvarez lives in Tierra Colorada, in Juan R. Escudero municipality. According to his family, State Judicial Police (*Policía Judicial del Estado*) officers came to their home at 4am without a warrant, dragged Faustino Jiménez Alvarez out by the hair and kicked him repeatedly. The police forced him into their vehicle, and when his wife tried to stop them they told her to shut up and go back inside or she would be shot.

The family immediately made enquiries with the State Attorney General's Office (*Procuraduría General de Justicia de Estado*) and the Judicial Police authorities in the region. They denied he was in custody.

On 2 July Faustino Jiménez Alvarez's family lodged a formal complaint about his "disappearance" with the Attorney General's Office in the state capital, Chilpancingo, and with the State Human Rights Commission (*Comisión Estatal de Derechos Humanos*). On 11 July the "disappearance" was reported to the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights (ICHR) and the United Nations Working Group on "Disappearances".

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The number of reported "disappearances" has declined steadily over the past four years, although several hundred past "disappearances" have never been satisfactorily resolved (see *Mexico: "Disappearances" - a black hole in the protection of human rights*, AMR 41/05/98, May 1998; and *Mexico: Under the shadow of impunity*, AMR 41/02/99, March 1999).

On 1 December 2000 a new government under President Vicente Fox Quesada took office in Mexico, ousting the Institutional Revolutionary Party (*Partido Revolucionario Institucional*) after more than 70 years in power. In his inaugural speech, President Fox told Congress that "Mexico will no longer be held up as a bad example in matters of human rights. We will protect human rights as never before, respecting them as never before and seeking a culture that repudiates any violation and punishes the guilty." ("*México no será ya más una referencia de descrédito en materia de derechos humanos, vamos a protegerlos como nunca, a respetarlos como nunca y considerar una cultura que repudie cualquier violación y sancione a los culpables.*")

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish, English or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Faustino Jiménez Alvarez, who was reportedly detained by Guerrero State Judicial Police on 17 June 2001 and whose whereabouts are now unknown;
- urging that if he is in custody, he is promptly brought before a judge and charged with a recognisably criminal offence, or else immediately released;
- urging the authorities to open a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into his "disappearance" with the findings made public and those responsible brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

Attorney General of the Republic  
 General Rafael Marcial Macedo de la Concha  
 Procurador General de la Republica  
 Procuraduría General de la República  
 Reforma Norte esq.Violeta 75  
 Col. Guerrero, delegación Cuauhtémoc  
 México D.F., C.P. 06300  
 MEXICO

**Fax:+52 5 346 2776/346 0904**

**Salutation: Senor Procurador General / Dear Attorney General**

Governor of Guerrero  
 Lic. René Juárez Cisneros  
 Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero  
 Palacio de Gobierno, segundo piso  
 Plaza Central, Primer Congreso de Anahuac  
 Colonia Centro  
 Chilpancingo 39000  
 Guerrero  
 MEXICO

**Fax: +52 747 2 3125/747 10334**

**Salutation: Señor Gobernador / Dear Governor**

Attorney General of Guerrero  
 Lic. Rigoberto Pano Arciniea  
 Procurador del Estado de Guerrero  
 Carretera Nacional México-Acapulco Km. 6+300  
 Tramo Chilpancingo- Petaquillos  
 Chilpancingo 39090  
 Guerrero  
 MEXICO

**Telegrams:Attorney General, Guerrero, Mexico**

**Fax: +52 747 22328 (This number may be difficult to reach)**

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/Señor Procurador**

Minister of the Interior  
 Lic. Santiago Creel  
 Secretario de Gobernación  
 Secretaría de Gobernación  
 Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez  
 Delegación Cuauhtémoc  
 México D.F., C.P.06600  
 MEXICO

**Telegrams:Secretario de Gobernacion, Mexico D.F., Mexico**

**Fax: +52 5 703 2171 / 546 5350**

**Salutation:Señor Secretario / Dear Minister**

**E-mail:santiagocreel@compuserve.com**

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights Commission of Guerrero  
 Lic. Juan Alarcón Hernández  
 Presidente de la Comisión de Defensa de los  
 Derechos Humanos del Estado de Guerrero (Codehum)  
 Calle Juárez, Esq. Galo Soberón y Parra  
 Col. Centro

39000, Chilpancingo, Guerrero  
MEXICO

Acción de los Cristianos para la Abolición de la Tortura. A.C.  
Huatusco No. 21 Depto. 502, Col Roma Sur,  
06760 México D.F.  
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 28 August 2001.