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### **Mexico: General José Francisco Gallardo should be released immediately**

The Mexican Government should immediately and unconditionally release prisoner of conscience, General José Francisco Gallardo, who is serving a military sentence of 14 years and 8 months for embezzlement and damaging military property, Amnesty International urged today, as his appeal is being heard.

“General Gallardo has been arbitrarily jailed just for expressing his ideas about the need to create an ombudsman for the armed forces to examine accusations of human rights violations against military personnel,” the organization said. “We consider him to be a prisoner of conscience and therefore demand his release.”

Amnesty International backs the call made by the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights for General Gallardo’s immediate release and the identification and punishment of those responsible for the campaign of persecution, slander and harassment against him.

“The family of the General have been threatened and suffered harassment. Along with the General, the family should receive adequate compensation from the authorities,” the organization added.

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