

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/30/96

UA 158/96

Torture / fear for safety

28 June 1996

MEXICO Oswald ALONSO, journalist

---

On 23 June 1996 Oswald Alonso, a radio journalist in the state of Morelos, was kidnapped from his home in Cuernavaca by three unidentified men. He was reportedly beaten and tortured for 24 hours and then released on 25 June near the village of Teloloapan, state of Guerrero. Oswald Alonso has repeatedly denounced the alleged corruption of members of the police forces in Morelos.

Amnesty International believes that Oswald Alonso may have been kidnapped by members of the state security forces, and remains seriously concerned for his safety.

Radio journalists working with Oswald Alonso have reported that the day he was kidnapped, members of the state judicial police went to the radio station asking for "a journalist, to bring him in" ("*un reportero, para presentarlo*") although they did not specify who they were looking for.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent months, journalists have been the target of serious human rights violations, including attempted murder, in several parts of Mexico.

For example, on 26 March 1996, Gina Batista, a reporter and programming manager for *Canal 40*, a television channel in Mexico city, survived unharmed after she was shot at by unidentified individuals, who also hurled threats against her for her work as a journalist (see UA 95/96, AMR 41/16/96, 4 April 1996).

On 28 January 1996 José Barrón Rosales, who works for *Radio Huayacocotla* in the state of Veracruz, was shot at in the community of El Llano by a gunman who hurled abuse against his work in local radio (see UA 47/96, AMR 41/12/96, 27 February 1996).

Ninfa Deandar, Raymundo Ramos and Jesús López Tapia, all associated with the independent daily newspaper, *El Mañana de Nuevo Laredo*, in the state of Tamaulipas, received anonymous threats in early February 1996, apparently as a result of the paper's reporting of alleged local government corruption (see UA 42/96, AMR 41/07/96, 21 February 1996).

Cuauhtemoc Ornelas Campos, a journalist and human rights defender in Torreón, Coahuila, "disappeared" in October 1995 after receiving a series of anonymous threats for publicly criticizing human rights abuses by local officials. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown (see *Amnesty International Report 1996*).

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

- expressing concern at the kidnapping and torture of Oswald Alonso, a radio journalist, on 23 June 1996, allegedly at the hands of the Morelos state security forces;
- urging for an immediate, impartial and thorough investigation into his detention and torture and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling for immediate measures to guarantee the physical integrity of Oswald Alonso and the protection of all journalists engaged in the legal denunciation of human rights violations and/or corruption by the security forces.

#### 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 or 542 1648 (if voice, ask: "me puede dar tono de fax por favor")**

**Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President**

2) Governor of Morelos

Lic. Jorge Carrillo Olea

Gobernador del Estado de Morelos

Palacio de Gobierno

Cuernavaca, Morelos, MEXICO

**Telegrams: Gobernador Carrillo, Morelos, Mexico**

**Faxes: +52 73 113020 (voice line, ask: "me puede dar tono de fax por favor")**

**Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor**

**COPIES TO:**

1) Daily newspaper

Sr. Editor

La Jornada

Balderas 68

06050 México D.F., MEXICO

2) Human Rights Organization

Centro de Derechos Humanos "Miguel Agustín Pro"

Puebla 153, Col. Roma

Mexico D.F., MEXICO

**Faxes: +52 5 208 7547**

**E-mail: [prodh@laneta.apc.org](mailto: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 18 August 1996.