

PUBLIC

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11 September 2002

Further information on UA 174/01 (AMR 41/026/2001, 17 July 2002) and follow-up (AMR 41/052/2001, 27 November 2002) - Fear for safety/arbitrary detention/possible "disappearance" new concern: harassment

MEXICO Faustino Jiménez Alvarez (m) - "disappeared"  
Últiminio Díaz Castillo (m) and his family

new names: `Francisco Cortéz Pasténes (m) and his family

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Francisco Cortéz Pasténes and his family. After several officers of the state judicial police (Policia Judicial del Estado, PJE) reportedly threatened and tried to detain him at gunpoint without an arrest warrant. Francisco Cortéz Pasténes, a former PJE officer, has implicated ex-colleagues and other officials in serious crimes, including the "disappearance" of Faustino Jiménez.

On 14 August a number of men were seen outside Francisco Cortéz Pasténes' house in Chilpancingo, Guerrero state. One was reportedly heard to say: "Allí esta ese cabrón, ya se lo cargo la chingada" (There's the bastard, he's fucked now). Francisco Cortéz Pasténes then identified some of the men as ex-colleagues from the PJE. When he later left his house one of the PJE agents reportedly pointed a gun at him in an attempt to detain him. He managed to escape in his car followed by the police. Francisco Cortéz Pasténes drove to the centre of Chilpancingo where he sought refuge in the *Comisión de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos del Estado de Guerrero* (Coddehum), Guerrero State Commission for Human Rights.

Earlier this year Francisco Cortéz Pasténes made public important evidence allegedly implicating ex-colleagues and other senior state officials in serious crimes, including the "disappearance" of Faustino Jiménez. The information provided enabled Coddehum to issue a recommendation to the authorities in relation to nine alleged cases of "disappearance" in the state, including the case of Faustino Jiménez. The national and international pressure on these cases finally led to arrest warrants against two PJE agents in connection with the "disappearance" of Faustino Jiménez. However, the delay in issuing the arrest warrants and apparent prior warning allowed the accused officers to go into hiding and avoid detention. The whereabouts of Faustino Jiménez remains unknown and the case is before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

The evidence provided by Francisco Cortéz Pasténes has played an important role in exposing human rights violations committed by law enforcement agencies in Guerrero. Amnesty International believes that he may face further harassment or arbitrary detention in reprisal.

Últiminio Díaz Castillo is no longer considered a witness to the case (see previous update) and there is no further information on him at present.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Francisco Cortéz Pasténes and his family after the attempt to threaten and arbitrarily detain him on 14 August;
- urging the authorities to ensure the safety of Francisco Cortéz Pasténes and his family;

- calling for an immediate investigation into this apparent harassment by PJE agents, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be prosecuted;
- reminding the authorities of their duty to establish the whereabouts of Faustino Jiménez, to prosecute all those responsible for his "disappearance" and to provide appropriate compensation to his relatives.

**APPEALS TO:**

Lic. René Juárez Cisneros  
Gobernado Constitucional del Estado de Guerrero  
Palacio de Gobierno 2do Piso  
Plaza Central, Primer Congreso de Anáhuac  
Col. Centro C.P. 39000  
Chilpancingo, Guerrero, MEXICO  
**Fax: +52 747 4723072**  
**Salutation: Dear Governor/Estimado Gobernador**

Lic. Jesús Ramírez Guerrero  
Procurador General de Justicia del Estado de Guerrero  
Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado de Guerrero  
Carretera Nacional Chilpancingo Acapulco  
Chilpancingo, Guerrero, MEXICO  
**Fax (52) 747 4722328**  
**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/ Dear Procurador**

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights Organization  
Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña Tlachinollan  
Mina 77 col centro  
Tlapa Gro. C.P. 41304, MEXICO

and to diplomatic representatives of< accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 October 2002.