

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/33/96

5 July 1996

Further information on UA 102/96 (AMR 41/18/96, 16 April 1996) - Possible Extrajudicial Execution / Fear for safety

MEXICO Killed: Marcos Olmedo Gutiérrez
 Wounded: Luis Cortez Salas
 Pablo Artista Meja
 Gregorio Vidal Juárez
 Remedios Ortiz Fernández
 Miguel Angel Delgado Vargas
 Ignacio Cortez
 Elia Aguilar Ríos (f)
 Luis Mendoza Cruz
 Juan Cruz Suárez
 Arrested: 34 people, names unknown

New name: Leticia Moctezuma Vargas (f), aged 34, community activist and teacher

Concern for the safety of local activist Leticia Moctezuma Vargas has been fuelled by a series of threats, apparently made to stop her from continuing her work on behalf of Tepoztlan community, particularly after the incident in which Marcos Olmedo Gutiérrez was extrajudicially killed (see below). On 1 July 1996, at around 6.30am and 12.30pm, Leticia Moctezuma Vargas received two threatening phone calls. In the first, the male caller is reported to have said: "*dejara de meterse en política*" - "*Stop interfering in politics*" and in the second, "*Que se calmara con su política o la iban a chingar*" - "*You should take it easy with your politics or we will kill you*".

On 2 July 1996 Leticia Moctezuma Vargas received another threatening phone call at the nursery where she works. The anonymous caller, this time female, is reported to have said: "*O te calmas o te va a ir mal, o te calmas o te vamos a chingar*" - "*Take it easy or things will go bad for you, take it easy or we will kill you*".

The 34 members of the *Comité de Unidad Tepozteca* (CUT), Committee of Tepoztecan Unity, arrested during the police operation of 10 April, have all been released.

However, arrest warrants have been issued against 100 members of CUT involved in the 10 April march.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 10 April 1996 during a peaceful march on the 75th anniversary of the assassination of Emiliano Zapata, Leticia Moctezuma Vargas and her two daughters - Ana Laura and Anel, aged 13 and 11 respectively - were, among others, brutally harassed and ill-treated.

An Amnesty International delegation, which visited Tepoztlan on two separate occasions in June 1996, was able to confirm the reports of violent repression against human rights workers, grassroots organizations and government critics who have been active in promoting and protecting the rights of the poorest sectors of the Mexican population. Amnesty International took nearly 20 testimonies and made a video related to the repression of the peaceful demonstration of 10 April. Leticia Moctezuma Vargas told the delegation that she received a blow to her head from a stone, she also witness how Marcos Olmedo

Gutiérrez was dragged, while alive, by police officers into a police vehicle. Marcos Olmedo Gutiérrez's death certificate and autopsy, as well as some photographs of his body, were presented to the delegation. They provide overwhelming evidence of an extrajudicial killing by a gunshot to the back of the head.

Amnesty International believes that the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators of human rights violations in Mexico is the main reason for the intolerable persistence of these abuses against human right activists.

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

- expressing serious concern for the safety of Leticia Moctezuma Vargas, following threats against her;
- calling for a prompt and thorough investigation into the threats and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging the government to take immediate measures to guarantee the safety of Leticia Moctezuma Vargas and of all human rights activists in Mexico;
- urging a prompt and full investigation into the police operation of 10 April, including the reported extrajudicial killing of Marcos Olmedo Gutiérrez, and the wounding of at least nine other people (name some), in the village of Cruz de San Rafael, Ayala-Tlaltizapan, in Morelos State;
- calling for those members of the security forces responsible for human rights violations to be brought to justice; ask to be kept informed of the outcome of any investigation.

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 5 271 1764 but preferably to + 52 5 515 1794 or 542 1648 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President

2) 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

3) Governor of the State of Morelos

Governor of the state of Morelos

Lic. Jorge Carrillo Olea

Gobernador del Estado de Morelos

Palacio de Gobierno Cuernavaca

Estado de Morelos, MEXICO

Faxes: + 52 73 18760

Telegrams: Gobernador Morelos, Mexico
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

Sres., Centro de Derechos Humanos
Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez, AC
CP 06700, Mexico D.F., Mexico, MEXICO

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 30 August 1996.