

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/35/97

UA 157/97 Fear for safety / Fear of torture / "Disappearance" 30 May 1997

**MEXICODetained:** Pascual Rodríguez Cervantes (27)  
Agustín Ojendis Cervantes (25)  
Virginio Salvador Avelino (22)  
Hilario Atempa Tolentino  
Anacleto Tepec Xinol  
Pablo Gaspar Jiménez  
Abundio Casarrubias Hernández

**"Disappeared":** Leonardo Bardomino Morales, teacher  
Juan Leonor Bello  
José Santiago Carranza  
Wences Acevedo García

**At risk of detention:** Alejandro Atempa Caltenco  
Luciano Jiménez Castro  
Wences Casarrubias Xinol  
Manuel Xinol Jiménez  
Martina Reyes Antonio (f)

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Eleven members of the legal opposition party, the *Partido de la Revolución Democrática*, PRD, Party of the Democratic Revolution have been arrested or "disappeared" in recent days in the Montaña region of the state of Guerrero.

Five others are being sought by the security forces. There is grave concern for all 16, named above, and for all PRD members in the region who continue to face serious human rights violations.

On 25 May, in the community of San Miguel Ahuelican, members of the armed forces detained three local PRD leaders: Pascual Rodríguez Cervantes, Agustín Ojendis Cervantes and Virginio Salvador Avelino. On the same day in the community of Xocoyonzintla, Hilario Atempa Tolentino, Anacleto Tepec Xinol, Pablo Gaspar Jiménez and Abundio Casarrubias Hernández, all PRD activists, were also detained.

It was not until the night of 27 May that it was revealed that the men had been transferred to the jurisdiction of the *Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado*, State Attorney General' Office, and faced charges of conspiracy and sedition, amongst others. They had been held incommunicado for two days and it is feared that they may have been tortured during that time.

On 26 May, Leonardo Bardomiano Morales was detained by members of the armed forces in the community of San Miguel Jolapa. On the same day in the community of Temalacatzingo, Juan Leonor Bello and José Santiago Carranza were also detained. On 27 May, in Ahuacotzingo, Wences Acevedo García was taken from his house by members of the armed forces. The whereabouts of all four is still unknown.

Alejandro Atempa Caltenco, Luciano Jiménez Castro, Wences Casarrubias Xinol, Manuel Xinol Jiménez and Martina Reyes Antonio, PRD activists from the municipality of Ahuacotzingo, are also reportedly being sought by the security forces.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since the massacre of 17 peasants on 28 June 1995 in Aguas Blancas in an ambush staged by Guerrero state police and government officials (see UA 159/95, AMR

41/15/95, 5 July 1995, and follow-ups AMR 41/16/95, 26 July 1995 and AMR 41/18/95, 17 August 1995), a wave of violence has swept through the state.

The armed opposition group, the *Ejército Popular Revolucionario*, EPR, Revolutionary Popular Army, first appeared on 28 June 1996, the anniversary of the Aguas Blancas massacre. Since then the security forces have consistently targeted peasants and their leaders, including PRD members, for intimidation, arrest, ill-treatment and torture, accusing communities and organizations of belonging to the EPR. Two recent armed encounters between the EPR and the Mexican army have led to a heightening of tension and an increase in the number of peasant leaders and local PRD activists being targeted for human rights violations by the security forces.

In July 1996, 200 peasants were arrested and many subject to torture (see EXTRA 103/96, AMR 41/34/96, 5 July 1996, and update, AMR 41/37/96, 18 July). Many are still in detention. Benigno Guzmán Martínez, a peasant leader, was accused of being a leader of the EPR. He was arrested in January and tortured (see UA 30/97, AMR 41/03/97, 28 January 1997). He is still in detention. A climate of systematic human rights violations and impunity prevail in the state of Guerrero.

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

- calling for the whereabouts of Leonardo Bardomiano Morales, Juan Leonor Bello, José Santiago Carranza and Wences Acevedo García to be made public, and for their families to be informed;
- expressing concern for the safety of Pascual Rodríguez Cervantes, Agustín Ojendis Cervantes, Virginio Salvador Avelino, Hilario Atempa Tolentino, Anacleto Tepec Xinol, Pablo Gaspar Jiménez and Abundio Casarrubias Hernández;
- seeking assurances that none of the detainees will be subjected to any form of ill-treatment or torture;
- expressing deep alarm at the increasing number of reports of human rights violations in the State of Guerrero, and the apparent lack of effective action to stop them and to end the impunity currently enjoyed by most perpetrators.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Attorney General of the Republic

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 Procuraduría General de la República  
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**Salutation: Sr. Procurador General / Dear Attorney General**

3) Attorney General of the State of Guerrero

Lic. Antonio Hernández Díaz  
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**Faxes: + 52 747 223 28 (if voice ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")**

**Salutation: Sr. Procurador/ Dear Attorney**

3) Interim Governor of the State of Guerrero

Ángel Heladio Aguirre Rivero

Gobernador Interino del Estado de Guerrero

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

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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 17 July 1997.