

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/35/98

4 August 1998

Further information on UA 173/98 (AMR 41/29/98, 9 June 1998) - Fear for safety

MEXICO

Released:

Javier Angel Severiano
Julian Ramírez Crecencio
Arcadio Alonso Martinez
Aurelio Porfirio Catarino
Serafín Morales Lopez
Alfonso Oliver Morales
Ivan Garcia Cristiano
Pedro Barrera Daniel
Albino Santos Concepcion
Lazaro Pelaes Castro
Vicente Vazquez Diaz
Adelfo Filiberto Concepción
Arnulfo Santiago Hernandez
Efrén Cotés Chaves

Adrian Patriarca Angustiano (16)
Bernabé Garcia de Jesus (14)
Pedro Esteban Abril (16)
Melitón Castro Morales (15)

Detained:

Erika Zamora Pardo (f)
Eugenio Ambrosio Trinidad
Bernardino García Francisco
Porfirio Hernandez Francisco
Juan García de los Santos (mistakenly
listed as Martín Macario Salazar)
Francisco Cristino Crecencio (15)

and 11 others killed

On 7 June 1998 members of the Mexican army surrounded a school in the community of El Charco, in the State of Guerrero, where they believed a meeting of the *Ejército Popular Revolucionario* (EPR), Popular Revolutionary Army, was taking place. Shots were fired and 11 people were killed and at least 23 were detained.

Amnesty International has been informed of the release of a number of the people listed above, detained following the incidents at El Charco. Those released have had all charges dropped against them.

Amnesty International is, however, concerned for the safety of those still detained, a number of whom were arrested while still in hospital. Furthermore Amnesty International has also received reports of some of the detainees being ill-treated while in the custody of the authorities.

Amongst the detained is Francisco Cristino Crecencio, a 15 year old boy, who was arrested and sentenced to nine months in a juvenile detention centre. He has been charged with being a member of the EPR following his confession, which was given while still in hospital. Amnesty International has received reports that this confession was taken without the presence of either a lawyer or a translator.

Amnesty International has also received reports of possible new arrest orders being prepared against those who have been released. Serious fears for the safety of these people exist as they are the principle witnesses to the events which took place in the community of El Charco, in June.

Reports so far received from the authorities state that the incident was a military operation against armed members of the EPR guerilla movement. However Amnesty International has received various accounts from non-governmental human rights organisations describing the deaths as extrajudicial executions, and that several civilians and a minor were amongst the dead.

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

- calling for an immediate and impartial investigation into the military operation which took place on 7 July 1998 in El Charco, in the State of Guerrero, which led to the killing of 11 people, and the wounding of at least seven, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- expressing deep concern for the safety of those detained (please name them), and seeking absolute guarantees for the physical safety of all detainees;
- expressing concern at the manner of Francisco Cristino Crecencio's detention, and asking that he be given access to a lawyer, a doctor and his relatives;
- expressing concern for the safety of the released and seeking absolute guarantees for their safety and their rights.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of the State of Guerrero

Lic. Angel Eladio Aguirre Rivero, Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero
Palacio de Gobierno, Plaza Central, Primer Congreso de Anahuac
Chilpancingo 39000, Estado de Guerrero, MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador del Estado, Guerrero, México

Faxes: + 52 747 2 8319

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

Attorney of the State of Guerrero

Lic. Servando Alanis Santos, Procurador del Estado de Guerrero
Procuraduría del Estado de Guerrero, Carretera México-Acapulco Km. 6300
Chilpancingo 39000, Estado de Guerrero, MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador del Estado, Guerrero, México

Faxes: +52 747 22328 (if voice, please say "me puede dar tono de fax por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

Attorney General of the Republic, Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar

Señor Procurador General de Justicia de la República
Procuraduría General de Justicia de la República
Paseo de la Reforma y Violeta, Col. Guerrero, 06300 México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: Procuraduría General de la República, México DF, México

Faxes: +52 5 626 4419

Salutation: Sr. Procurador / Dear Attorney General

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organisation

Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña (Tlachinollan, AC)
Hidalgo, No 88-A,
41304 Tlapa, Guerrero, MEXICO

Newspaper

Sr Editor
La Jornada, Balderas 68,
06050 México, D.F., MEXICO

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 15 September 1998.