

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/37/96

18 July 1996

Further information on EXTRA 103/96 (AMR 41/34/96, 5 July 1996) - Fear for safety / Fear of torture and new concern: Torture / Ill-treatment

MEXICO Hilario Mesino Acosta, peasant activist

Benigno Guzmán Martínez, peasant activist

Marino Sánchez Flores, peasant activist

New names:

arrested 15 July: Procoro Valente Gil, aged 26, student member of FAC-MLN

Alfredo Barragán, aged 22, peasant activist

Gregorio Garcia, aged 35, peasant activist

Gerardo Hurtado Arias, aged 18, peasant activist

Taide Mejía Hernández, peasant activist

Marcos Mejía Cruz, peasant activist

Valentín Tapia Noyola, aged 24, chauffeur

arrested 9 July: Cleofas Sánchez, peasant activist member of OPG

Pedro Barrios, peasant activist member of OPG

Gervacio Arce, peasant activist member of OPG

Gonzalo Sánchez, peasant activist member of OPG

arrested 8 July: Teodoro Juárez Sánchez, peasant activist member of OCSS

Ramiro Jiménez, peasant activist member of OCSS

Lorenzo Adame Benítez, peasant activist member of OCSS

Jerónimo Adame, peasant activist member of OCSS

Fears for the safety of members of the *Organización Campesina de la Sierra del Sur* (OCSS), Southern Sierra Peasant Organization, in Guerrero have widened into grave concern for all peasant activists in the state. Since the appearance of the *Ejército Revolucionario Popular* (ERP), People's Revolutionary Army on 28 June 1996 (see original action), hundreds of police have arrived in Guerrero state. There have been continuous reports of threats, intimidation and ill-treatment against members of local communities as troops and police search homes and vehicles for weapons and ERP members.

On 14 July 1996 following the arrests of some peasant activists (on 3, 8 and 9 July), more than 200 local peasants, mostly indigenous Amuzgos people and members of the peasant organization *Frente Amplio para la Construcción del Movimiento para la Liberación Nacional*, FAC-MLN, Wide Front for the Construction of the Movement National Liberation, decided to organize a demonstration demanding their release. At about midnight the Riot Police and State Judicial Police arrived and arrested Procoro Valente Gil, Alfredo Barragán, Gregorio Garcia, Gerardo Hurtado Arias, Taide Mejía Hernández, Marcos Mejía Cruz and Valentín Tapia Noyola (the latter worked, among other OCSS and FAC members, for a week with the Amnesty International delegation which visited Guerrero during June 1996). Their relatives were denied access to the detainees until 16 July. Reports state that one of the seven detainees has been tortured.

A witness has described how police beat and ill-treated men, women and children at the demonstration on 14 July. Some 30 people are reported to have been wounded, including Emilio Ventura Angel, Antonio González López and Virginia Morales Vega (who is five months pregnant). Latest reports indicate that the medical personnel at the hospital where the wounded were taken, have denounced threats by members of the state government to sack them if they treat the wounded peasants.

Earlier, on 9 July, Cleofas Sánchez, Pedro Barrios, Gervacio Arce and Gonzalo Sánchez were arrested in Guerrero state by members of the security forces, and accused of belonging to the ERP. The four are active members of the non-violent *Organización de Pueblos y Colonias de Guerrero*, OPCG, Organization of Villages and Communities of Guerrero.

On 8 July, Teodoro Juarez, Ramiro Jiménez, Lorenzo Adame and Jerónimo Adame, all active members of the OCSS from Yerbasantita in Guerrero state, were reportedly arrested on Guajalote's hill by members of the security forces. They were initially accused of rebellion, but later charged with conspiracy.

There have been reports that the four were tortured, including by electric shock, while being ordered to confess to being members of the ERP. This continued for several days before the authorities acknowledged their detention.

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

- expressing serious concern for the safety of members of peasant organizations in Guerrero, reportedly threatened and ill-treated in connection with their activities on behalf of the local peasant population;
- expressing deep concern about the arrest of the people named above (name some) and the reports of torture, and seeking absolute guarantees of the physical safety of all detainees, urging that they be charged with recognizable criminal offences or released;
- calling for an investigation into the alleged ill-treatment by police against demonstrators on 14 July 1996 and for those to be responsible to be brought to justice;
- seeking assurances that all wounded people will gain appropriate medical treatment in conditions free from intimidation.

APPEALS TO:

1) Attorney of the state of Guerrero

Lic. Antonio Hernández Díaz
 Procurador del Estado de Guerrero
 Carretera Nacional México-Acapulco Km. 6.300
 CP 39.000, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, MEXICO.

Telegrams: Sr. Procurador, Guerrero, México

Faxes: + 52 747 223 28 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Procurador/ Dear Attorney

2) Interim Governor of the state of Guerrero

Ángel Heladio Aguirre Rivero
 Gobernador Interino del estado de Guerrero
 Palacio de Gobierno
 Plaza Primer Congreso de Anahuac
 39000 Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico

Telegrams: Gobernador Aguirre, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico

Faxes: + 52 747 23072 (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) Centro de DD.HH.

Liga Mexicana por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
Avenida Azcapotzalco N275, Col. Claveria
02090 Mexico 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 20 August 1996.