

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/41/97

UA 168/97

"Disappearance" / Torture / Fear of Torture 12 June 1997

MEXICO

Faustino Martínez Basurto
Juan Julián González Martínez

At 5pm on 8 June 1997, Juan Julián González Martínez and Faustino Martínez Basurto, members of *Mantis Religiosa*, a religious non-governmental organization, were abducted by four heavily armed men, reportedly with links to the security forces. Juan Julián González was released the following day after reportedly being subjected to a night of sustained torture. Faustino Martínez Basurto has not been seen since. Amnesty International is gravely concerned for his safety.

Reports indicate that the two men were travelling by taxi on the Tlapa-Pueblo road in the state of Guerrero, when their vehicle was intercepted and they were forced to get into a van by the group of armed men. Their hands were immediately tied and they were blindfolded. They were forced to lie on the floor of the van while their abductors sat on them for the five-hour journey which followed. During the drive their abductors repeatedly beat them and accused them of belonging to the *Ejército Popular Revolucionario*, EPR, Revolutionary Popular Army, an armed opposition group. One of the abductors reportedly burned Juan Julián González Martínez's neck with a lighter. The prisoners were told they were going to be killed.

After having been taken to an unknown location, Juan Julián González Martínez heard Faustino Martínez Basurto being beaten. On hearing a shot he was told that Faustino Martínez Basurto had been killed and was threatened with the same. However, during the night he continued to hear the screams of Faustino Martínez Basurto apparently being tortured.

Later, with his hands still tied and blindfolded, Juan Julián González had a noose put round his neck and was threatened with being hanged. He was then reportedly beaten and kicked, causing him to vomit. Throughout the night he was repeatedly asked to name leaders of the EPR and communities with links to the organization.

At 4am on 9 June, Juan Julián González was released outside the town of Huamuxtitlán, and warned not to return to Tlapa or to tell anyone what had happened. If he did, they warned him, "we are going to kill you" (*nosotros te vamos a matar*).

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 of Guerrero.

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 persistently targeted peasants and their leaders, including opposition party members, for intimidation, arrest, ill-treatment and torture, accusing them, as well as entire 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 opposition activists being targeted for human rights violations such as arbitrary detention and torture in Guerrero (see UA 157/97, AMR 41/35/97, 30 May 1997 and follow-ups AMR 41/37/97, 4 June and AMR 41/38/97, 6 June 1997).

A climate of systematic human rights violations and impunity prevails in the state.

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

- calling for the whereabouts of Faustino Martínez Basurto to be made public immediately and for his family to be informed;
- seeking assurances that if he is in detention he is being treated humanely;
- calling for an immediate and thorough investigation into the abduction and torture of Juan Julián González Martínez and Faustino Martínez Basurto, and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice;
- expressing deep alarm at the increasing number of reports of human rights violations in the state of Guerrero, the apparent lack of effective action to stop them and the impunity currently enjoyed by most perpetrators.

APPEALS TO:

1) Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuéllar

Procurador General de la República

Procuraduría General de la República

Paseo de la Reforma y Violeta

Col. Guerrero, 06300 México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador Madrazo, México D.F., México

Faxes: (+52 5) 626 4419

Salutation: Sr. Procurador General / Dear Attorney General

3) Attorney General 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 (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

Palacio de Gobierno

Plaza Primer Congreso de Anahuac

39000 Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico

Telegrams: Gobernador Aguirre, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico

Faxes: + 52 747 23072 (if voice 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) Human rights organization

Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña Tlachinollan, A.C.
Hidalgo # 88-A, Col. Centro, Tlapa de Comonfort,
Guerrero, 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 27 July 1997.