

PUBLIC

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UA 321/98

Fear for safety

23 December 1998

MEXICO Alejandro Gallardo Enríquez and his family

On 21 December 1998 a failed kidnap attempt by six military intelligence officers against Alejandro Gallardo Enríquez, a leading campaigner for reform in the armed forces, took place. Although all those involved have subsequently been arrested, Amnesty International remains concerned for his safety in the context of increased tensions in the armed forces between those for and those against reforms of military justice.

Four days earlier a protest demonstration by army officers had taken place where they demanded the release of Brigadier General José Francisco Gallardo Rodríguez, a prisoner of conscience, and reforms to the military justice system.

This included better treatment for over 1000 members of the armed forces facing military charges.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Alejandro Enríquez's father, Brigadier General José Francisco Gallardo Rodríguez, also a leading campaigner for army reform, was imprisoned in 1993 and charged with, among others things, "dishonouring the army". This related to his publication that year of a document calling for the establishment of a military human rights ombudsman's office in Mexico. Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.

Brigadier General Gallardo's family has suffered many threats during his detention as a result of his campaign (see UA 144/96, AMR 41/27/96 13 June 1996).

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

- calling for an immediate investigation into the attack against Alejandro Gallardo Enríquez on 21 December 1998, and asking that those responsible be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to ensure the physical safety of Alejandro Gallardo Enríquez and other relatives of Brigadier General José Francisco Gallardo Rodríguez;
- urging the authorities to ensure the physical safety of the members of the armed forces involved in the demonstration of 17 December 1998.

APPEALS TO:

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

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Faxes: + 52 5 626 4419

Salutation: Sr, Procurador / Dear Attorney General

Attorney of the Federal District

Lic. José Antonio González Fernández

Procurador del Distrito Federal, Procuraduría del Distrito Federal

Pino Suárez Paseo de la Reforma 75, Col. Centro 06200 México D.F., MEXICO
Telegrams: Procurador del Estado, Distrito Federal, México
Faxes: + 52 5 625 7081 (if voice answers, please ask: "puede darme un tono de fax por favor")
Salutation: Sr. Procurador / Dear Attorney

COPIES TO:

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Secretario de la Defensa Nacional
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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 3 February 1999.