

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 214/01 (AMR 41/032/2001, 30 August 2001) - Fear for safety/possible ill-treatment

MEXICO Brigadier General José Francisco Gallardo Rodriguez

The Bordo de Xochiara prison authorities have installed a public telephone near General Gallardo's cell, so he has ready contact with the outside world. They have also moved high-risk prisoners to a different wing of the prison. According to the General's family, this is a response to intense national and international pressure from Amnesty International members and others.

The government's National Commission of Human Rights (*Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos*, CNDH) had asked the prison authorities for protection measures (*medidas cautelares*) on behalf of General Gallardo on 6 September.

Prisoner of conscience General Gallardo was transferred to a punishment cell on 28 August, apparently in reprisal for telling journalists that military intelligence units had regularly used covert illegal methods to harass and intimidate him and his family before and after he was arrested. He was jailed in 1993 for criticizing human rights violations by the Mexican armed forces.

In early October 2001 General Gallardo informed Amnesty International that the Neza-Bordo prison governor had warned him that if he continued to publicly criticise the authorities in relation to his case and his treatment, visits by his family would be restricted. According to the family, two visits were prevented and others made difficult by the introduction of new bureaucratic requirements.

On 31 October various non-governmental organisations representing General Gallardo requested that the Inter American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH) issue protection measures on behalf of General Gallardo. These measures were approved and sent to the Mexican government on 2 November. They stipulated that it was necessary for the government to take urgent and concrete action to protect General Gallardo. In particular, the CIDH requested that measures should be taken to guarantee access to General Gallardo in prison so that his family and his representatives can visit him. (*la Comisión considera necesaria la adopción de medidas concretas, con carácter urgente, a efectos de la protección de la vida, la integridad personal y la libertad personal del General José Francisco Gallardo en México. En particular, la CIDH solicita que se tomen las medidas oportunas para garantizar el acceso al lugar de reclusión del General Gallardo a sus familiares y representantes ante el sistema interamericano de derechos humanos.*)

On 9 November 2001, the 8th anniversary of General Gallardo's imprisonment, Amnesty International issued a document reiterating calls for his immediate and unconditional release and expressing its concern about the judicial process against General Gallardo. Please refer to document AMR 41/037/2001 *Silencing dissent: An update on the case of General Gallardo*. If you wish to participate in this accompanied action please contact your sections.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the Urgent Action network.