

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/57/96

26 September 1996

Further information (2) on UA 157/95 (AMR 41/14/96, 4 July 1995) - and follow-up AMR 41/29/96, 27 June 1996 - Fear for safety

MEXICO Bishop Arturo Lona Reyes, human rights activist

Following accusations made against Bishop Arturo Lona Reyes in the local media in June 1996 by members of the ruling *Partido Revolucionario Institucional* (PRI), Institutional Revolutionary Party, the bishop has begun to receive anonymous telephone calls. "*Más vale que te prevengas porque te traemos en la mira*" - "you'd better look out because we're watching you" - the caller told him. "*Te has escapado de varias, pero no te vas a escapar de ésta*" - "You escaped several times before, but you're not going to get off this time."

Amnesty International believes that Bishop Lona Reyes is being targeted because of his work on behalf of indigenous and peasant communities, as well as in relation to an ongoing 'smear' campaign against him in the local press, in which he is portrayed, among other things, as a supporter of armed opposition groups.

In June 1995, the bishop survived an armed attack on a vehicle in which he was travelling.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- reiterating your concern for the safety of Bishop Arturo Lona Reyes, following the latest threats made against him;
- calling for effective measures to be taken to guarantee Bishop Arturo Lona Reyes's safety.

APPEALS AND COPIES TO:

as per update of 27 June 1996.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 November 1996.