

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/59/97

UA 220/97

Fear for safety

18 July 1997

MEXICO Mariclaire Acosta Urquidi, human rights defender

On 9 July 1997 two men claiming to be judicial police unlawfully entered the home of Mariclaire Acosta Urquidi in Mexico City. They left after a few minutes in an unmarked car. The security guard at the building claimed they were carrying police identification.

Mariclaire Acosta Urquidi, who is the president of the *Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos* (CMDPDH), Mexican Commission for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights, a non-governmental organisation, has been the target of death threats and intimidation in the past and Amnesty International is gravely concerned for her safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is concerned that this intimidatory act against Mariclaire Acosta Urquidi is part of a pattern of threats and attacks against social and human rights activists in Mexico, allegedly carried out by, or with the involvement of, members of the security forces. The failure to bring to justice those responsible and the lack of effective action to stop the perpetrators has apparently helped to fuel an increasing number of incidents of intimidation and threats.

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

- calling on the authorities to guarantee the physical safety of Mariclaire Acosta Urquidi;
- calling for a full and prompt investigation into the unlawful entry of the two men into the home of Mariclaire Acosta Urquidi and politely requesting to be kept informed of any findings;
- expressing alarm at the continuing human rights violations against social and human rights activists in Mexico;
- asking what action is being taken to put a stop to these intimidatory acts and to end the impunity currently enjoyed by most perpetrators.

APPEALS TO:

1. Minister of the Interior:

Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor

Secretario de Gobernación

Secretaría de Gobernación

Bucarelli 99, 1er piso, Col Juárez, 06699 México DF, MEXICO

Telegrams: Sr. Secretario de Gobernación, Mexico D.F.

Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350 / +52 5 535 99 52

Salutation: Sr. Secretario / Dear Minister

2. 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: Sr. Procurador de la República, México D.F.

Fax: +52 5 626 4419

Salutation: Sr. Procurador de la República / Dear Attorney General

3) Attorney General of the Federal District

Lic. José Antonio González Fernández

Procurador del Distrito Federal

Paseo de la Reforma 75

México 06200 D.F. MEXICO

Telegrams: Sr. Procurador General del Distrito Federal, México D.F.

Faxes: + 52 5 625 7631

Salutation: Sr. Procurador General del D.F./ Dear Attorney General

COPIES TO:

1. Comision Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de Derechos Humanos A.C

Director del Area de Defensa

Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de Derechos Humanos A.C.

Tehuantepec 155 Roma sur. CP 06760. Mexico D.F.

Faxes: 52 584 2731

e-mail: cmdpdh@laneta.apc.org

2. Newspaper

Sr. Director

La Jornada

Balderas 68

06050 México D.F., MEXICO

and to diplomatic representatives of MEXICO accredited to you country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 August 1997.