

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/60/97

UA 226/97

Fear for safety/ torture/ "disappearance" 21 July 1997

MEXICO Benjamín Pérez Vásquez (16)

Julio Pérez Vásquez (10)

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Benjamín Pérez Vásquez and Julio Pérez Vásquez who "disappeared" on 18 July 1997 from the community of Francisco Villa, municipality of Venustiano Carranza, Chiapas, after an attack from the security and paramilitary forces. Their "disappearance" occurred after *guardias blancas* (paramilitary forces) and members of the security forces entered the community to evict its inhabitants and set fire to more than 30 houses. The attack was directed at members of the *Organización Campesina Emiliano Zapata, OCEZ*, Emiliano Zapata Peasant Organisation, a peasant organisation that supports the land claims of indigenous peasants in conflict with large ranch-owners.

Amnesty International fears that the two minors have been detained arbitrarily by the security forces and is concerned for their physical well-being.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the last three years there has been an alarming increase in the number of new cases of short-term "disappearances" reported in Mexico. Most of these cases appear to be linked to military and police counter-insurgency activities, especially in the southern states of Chiapas and Guerrero (see UA 195/97, AMR 41/53/97, 2 July 1997).

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

- expressing deep alarm at the "disappearances" of Benjamin Pérez Vásquez and Julio Pérez Vásquez;
- seeking assurances that they will not be subjected to any form of ill-treatment or torture;
- expressing concern for the continuing human rights violations in Chiapas;
- urging a prompt and full investigation into the attack on the community of Francisco Villa.

APPEALS TO:

1) Governor of the State of Chiapas

Lic. Julio César Ruiz Ferro
Gobernador del estado de Chiapas
Palacio de Gobierno
Av. Central y Primera Oriente
Colonia Centro, 29009 Tuxtla Gutiérrez
Estado de Chiapas, MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador Ruiz Ferro, Chiapas, México

Fax: + 52 961 20917 (if voice, ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

2) Attorney General of the State of Chiapas

Lic. Jorge Hernández Aguilar
Procuraduría General de Chiapas, MEXICO

Telegrams Sr. Procurador de la República, México DF

Fax: + 52 5 626 4419

Salutation: Sr. Procurador de Chiapas/ Dear Attorney General

COPIES TO:

1) Human rights organizations

Sres. Nuevo Centro de Población Francisco Villa
2da Avenida Norte S/N, C.P. 30200
Casa del Pueblo, Venustiano Carranza
Chiapas, MEXICO
Fax: + 52 968 70006

2) Daily newspaper

Sr. Editor
La Jornada
Balderas 68
06050 México DF, MEXICO
Fax: + (525) 521 2763/ 510 1901

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 1 September 1997.