

EXTERNAL

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"Disappearance" / Fear for safety

8 October 1996

MEXICOGregorio Alfonso Alvarado López, teacher, trade unionist and Indian rights activist

Gregorio Alfonso Alvarado López, a teacher and member of the *Coordinación Estatal de los Trabajadores de la Educación*, a teacher's union, and the *Consejo Guerrerense 500 Años de Resistencia Indígena*, Guerrero Council 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance, an Indian rights non-governmental organization in the State of Guerrero, has not been seen since 26 September 1996, in his home town of Chilpancingo, Guerrero. It is feared that he has been "disappeared" by paramilitary groups reportedly operating in the State of Guerrero.

On 5 August Gregorio Alfonso Alvarado López had complained before the *Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos*, National Human Rights Commission, and its counterpart in the State of Guerrero, about intimidation against him, including being followed on a number of occasions by unknown individuals in unidentified cars bearing number plates from the Federal District.

Days after Gregorio Alfonso Alvarado López "disappeared", a delegation consisting of his wife and members of the *Consejo Guerrerense 500 años de Resistencia Indígena*, visited the Secretary of Government of Guerrero, Lic. Fermín Alvarado Arroyo, to complain about the "disappearance" and call for his protection and for full and prompt investigations. The official denied any involvement of the state authorities, and reportedly told the members of the delegation that paramilitary groups beyond his government's control were operating in Guerrero. Amnesty International has repeatedly denounced the actions of such groups reportedly operating with the complicity or tolerance of the Mexican security forces.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has lately documented dozens of cases of serious human rights violations against grassroot and human rights activists in Mexico, in the context of an increase in security force operations to quell recent guerrilla activities in various states, including Guerrero. The organization is alarmed and angered about the targeting by the security forces of members of the opposition and local and national organizations who campaign peacefully against these abuses, such as Gregorio Alfonso Alvarado López.

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

- expressing serious concern about the "disappearance" of Gregorio Alfonso Alvarado López in Chilpancingo on 26 September 1996, reportedly by members of paramilitary groups operating in Guerrero, and calling for his immediate, unconditional and safe release;
- calling for an immediate and effective investigation into his "disappearance" and for all those responsible to be brought to justice. Politely request to be kept informed about the investigation;
- expressing deep concern about continuing reports about systematic human rights violations in the State of Guerrero, and calling for immediate and effective action to halt such abuses by the security forces and paramilitary groups operating in the region with the reported complicity or tolerance of the security forces.

APPEALS TO

Minister of Interior

Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor
Secretario de Gobernación
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucarelli 99, 1er Piso
Col Juárez, 06699 México DF, México

Faxes: +525 5465350

Telegrams: Secretario de Gobernación, México DF, México

Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister

Interim Governor of the state of Guerrero

Ángel Heladio Aguirre Rivero
Gobernador Interino del estado de Guerrero
Palacio de gobierno
Plaza Primer Congreso de Anahuac
39000 Chilpancingo, guerrero, México

Telegrams; Gobernador Aguirre, chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico

Faxes: +52747 22328 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/Dear Governor

COPIES TO:**Centro de DD.HH.**

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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 30 November 1996.