

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/69/96

4 November 1996

Further information on EXTRA 103/96 (AMR 41/34/96, 5 July 1996) and follow-ups (AMR 41/37/96, 18 July and AMR 41/50/96, 29 August) - Fear for safety / Fear of torture / Torture / Ill-treatment / Prisoner of conscience

MEXICO

Hilario Mesino Acosta, peasant activist
Benigno Guzmán Martínez, peasant activist
Marino Sánchez Flores, peasant activist

arrested 15 July: Procoro Valente Gil, aged 26, student member of FAC-MLN
Alfredo Barragán, aged 22, peasant activist
Gregorio Garcia, aged 35, peasant activist
Gerardo Hurtado Arias, aged 18, peasant activist
Taide Mejía Hernández, peasant activist
Marcos Mejía Cruz, peasant activist
Valentín Tapia Noyola, aged 24, chauffeur

arrested 9 July: Cleofas Sánchez, peasant activist member of OPG
Pedro Barrios, peasant activist member of OPG
Gervacio Arce, peasant activist member of OPG
Gonzalo Sánchez, peasant activist member of OPG

arrested 8 July: Teodoro Juárez Sánchez, peasant activist member of OCSS
Ramiro Jiménez, peasant activist member of OCSS
Lorenzo Adame Benítez, peasant activist member of OCSS
Jerónimo Adame, peasant activist member of OCSS

Latest reports indicate that Teodoro Juárez Sánchez has been tortured in prison in Acapulco, Guerrero state, by other inmates working with the knowledge of the prison authorities, in order to silence his demands for justice. He has had to be hospitalized as a result.

Teodoro Juárez Sánchez, a member of the *Organización Campesina de la Sierra del Sur* (OCSS), Southern Sierra Peasant Organization, was arrested on 8 July 1996 in Yerbasantita, Guerrero state, together with other three OCSS members.

He was reportedly tortured for several days in unacknowledged detention, before being taken before a judge in Acapulco. He testified that the state police had beaten him, subjected him to electric shocks and held his head under water in order to force him to confess to being a member of the *Ejército Revolucionario Popular* (ERP), People's Revolutionary Army. To date there has been no investigation into his allegations and no-one has been brought to justice.

Amnesty International has no further information about the other detainees named above. In view of the reports concerning Teodoro Juárez Sánchez, the organization remains concerned for the safety of any of those who remain in detention.

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

- expressing deep concern that Teodoro Juárez Sánchez has had to be hospitalized as a result of torture, and urging that he receive all the medical treatment that he requires and that he not be returned to prison until fully recovered;
- calling for immediate, full and impartial investigations into the alleged torture and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling for immediate measures to ensure that any other peasant activists arrested around the same time who remain in detention are protected from torture and ill-treatment;

if possible also:

- ask what action the authorities took in response to earlier appeals about the torture of Hilario Mesino Acosta (see previous update) and other peasant activists arrested in July;
- call for immediate and effective measures to end the impunity currently being enjoyed by perpetrators of human rights violations in Mexico.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of the Republic

Lic. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León

Presidente de la República

Palacio Nacional, 06067 México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: Presidente Zedillo, México D.F., México

Telexes: 170937 sppnme; 1774468 sppnme

Faxes: + 52 5 271 1764 or + 52 5 515 1794 or 542 1648 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President

2) Attorney of the state of Guerrero

Lic. Antonio Hernández Díaz

Procurador del Estado de Guerrero

Carretera Nacional México-Acapulco Km. 6.300

CP 39.000, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, MEXICO.

Telegrams: Sr. Procurador, Guerrero, México

Faxes: + 52 747 223 28 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Procurador/ Dear Attorney

3) 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, Mexico

Telegrams: Gobernador Aguirre, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico

Faxes: + 52 747 23072 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

1) Daily newspaper

Sr. Editor

La Jornada

Balderas 68

06050 México D.F., MEXICO

2) Peasants organization.

C/ Ometepec #8

Col. Unidad Guerrerense (INDECO)

Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico

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 5 December 1996.