

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/79/96

27 November 1996

Further information on UA 200/96 (AMR 41/43/96, 13 August 1996) and follow-ups (AMR 41/51/96, 29 August; AMR 41/56/96, 26 September; AMR 41/62/96, 11 October; AMR 41/72/96, 11 November) - Death threats / Fear for safety

MEXICO Pilar Noriega, lawyer
 Digna Ochoa, lawyer
 David Fernández Dávalos, Jesuit priest
and new name: Víctor Brenes, lawyer

Staff members of the non-governmental human rights organization, *Centro de Derechos Humanos Agustín Pro Juárez, A.C. (PRODH)*, have received further death threats. Amnesty International remains deeply concerned for their safety.

Those named in the latest threats are three PRODH lawyers, Pilar Noriega, Digna Ochoa, Víctor Brenes, and the Director of the Centre, David Fernández Dávalos.

The threats, consisting of anonymous text written on separate pages for each one of those named, and marked with a black cross, were discovered in the mailbox at PRODH's office in Mexico City, at 3:15pm on 26 November. The text announced the imminent death of those named, as well as Víctor Brenes' daughters.

The death threats are the latest in a series made against staff of PRODH, a highly respected human rights organization in Mexico. The threats have become more aggressive and contain more and more personal details of those named. Despite formal complaints and thousands of international appeals to the authorities, nobody has been brought to justice for making threats.

Amnesty International fears that the Mexican Government's apparent acquiescence with the growing number of threats and attacks against human rights defenders, and the corresponding impunity of perpetrators, may lead to gross human rights violations against activists, including those named above.

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

- expressing deep concern about the latest death threats against Pilar Noriega, Digna Ochoa, Víctor Brenes and David Fernández Dávalos, staff members of the PRODH, and about the impunity with which such threats have continued against PRODH, and expressing dismay that nobody has been brought to justice for earlier threats;
- seeking clarification as to why the authorities have been unable to fully investigate the threats, and urging the authorities to adopt immediate and effective measures to prevent further threats and attacks;
- expressing solidarity with those threatened as well as outrage about the situation being faced by human rights defenders in Mexico, and emphasising Amnesty International's commitment to continue campaigning for the protection of such activists.

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

Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President

2) President of the Human Rights Commission of the Senate

Senador Eduardo Andrade de Sánchez

Presidente de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Senado

Comisión del Senado, Xicoténcatl 9, Mezanine, desp 34

06018 México D.F.MÉXICO

Telegrams: Presidente Comisión Derechos Humanos Senado, México DF, México

Faxes: + 52 5 510 8700

Salutation: Sr. Presidente de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos/Dear Senator

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 7081

Salutation: Sr. Procurador/ Dear Attorney

4) Minister of Foreign Affairs

Lic. José Ángel Gurriá Treviño

Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores

Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores

Av. Ricardo Flores Magón No.1,

Colonia Nonoalco Tlatelolco

06995 México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: Sr.Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, México D.F.

Faxes: +525 782 4109

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/ Dear MinisterAttorney

When dialing fax numbers, if voice, ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor"

COPIES TO:

1) Daily newspaper

Sr. Editor

Proceso

Fresa 13

Col del Valle 0311

México D.F.,MEXICO

Fax: 525 629 2028

2) Human Rights Organization

Sres.

Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles

de Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para Todos"

Puebla 153, Col, Roma

06700, México D.F

MÉXICO

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 January 1997.