

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/106/97

10 November 1997

Further information on UA 351/97 (AMR 41/103/97, 6 November 1997) - Fear for safety

MEXICO Father Samuel Ruiz, Bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas  
Raúl Vera, auxiliary bishop

New names: María de la Luz Ruiz (f), aged 55, sister of Bishop Ruiz  
José Pedro Pérez Pérez, priest  
José Vázquez Pérez, priest  
Manuel Pérez Pérez, priest

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On 6 November 1997, María de la Luz Ruiz, sister of Bishop Samuel Ruiz, was attacked in her house in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas State. She was reportedly hit repeatedly with a hammer, causing fractures to her skull. She is in hospital in a serious condition.

This attack comes only one day after Bishop Ruiz and Bishop Raúl Vera were attacked on their way to the municipality of Tila, along with other members of the diocese of San Cristóbal de las Casas. Although both bishops escaped unhurt, Amnesty International has since learned the names of the three people, all priests in the diocese of San Cristóbal de las Casas, who were injured in the attack: José Pedro Pérez Pérez, José Vázquez Pérez and Manuel Pérez Pérez.

Amnesty International has documented an ongoing pattern of intimidation and harassment against members of the catholic clergy working in defence of human rights in Chiapas state. Bishops Ruiz and Vera have received numerous threats over the past two years and have also been subjected to a smear campaign by the local media attempting to discredit their activities (see UA 201/96, AMR 41/44/96, 14 August 1996; UA 120/96, AMR 41/21/96, 7 May 1996; follow-up AMR 41/23/97, 10 May 1997; and UA 46/95, AMR 41/10/95, 21 February 1995). In March 1997, two Jesuit priests were arbitrarily detained and tortured by members of the security forces in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas state (see UA 64/97, AMR 41/10/97, 14 March 1997; follow-ups AMR 41/11/97, 12 March 1997, and AMR 41/12/97, 14 March 1997).

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

- expressing deep concern at the attack on María de la Luz Ruiz on 6 November 1997;
- calling for a prompt and thorough investigation into this attack, and the attack of 5 November on Bishop Samuel Ruiz and others, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- seeking assurances that measures will be taken, as a matter of urgency, to guarantee the safety of Bishop Ruiz, his sister, María de la Luz Ruiz, and members of the catholic clergy working in Chiapas state.

**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**

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

**Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/Dear Governor**

2) Attorney General, Chiapas

Marco Antonio Besares Escobar

Procurador General de Chiapas

Procuraduría General

Tuxtla Gutiérrez

Estado de Chiapas, MEXICO

**Telegrams: Procurador General de Chiapas, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico**

**Faxes: + 52 9 616 5376 (if voice, ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")**

**Salutation: Sr Procurador / Dear Attorney General**

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights Organization

Comisión de Derechos Humanos "Fray Bartolomé de las Casas"

Apartado postal 178

San Cristóbal de las Casas

29250 Chiapas

Church

Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano

Prolongación Ministerios 24-B

Col Tepeyac-Insurgentes

Apdo 118-005

07020 México DF

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 29 December 1997.