

# URGENT ACTION

## TEENAGERS IN DETENTION CENTRE BEATEN

**Teenagers held at a detention centre in Monterrey, Nuevo León state, northern Mexico, have been beaten by security guards. The victims may face reprisals if they pursue formal complaints.**

The Detention and Re-integration Centre for Young Offenders (*Centro de Internamiento y Adaptación de Adolescentes Infractores*) in Monterrey holds 56 young people; some aged 18 and some under the age of 18. On 27 February, almost 80 prison security guards from an adult prison were brought in to carry out an inspection for knives and drugs. Some of the youths told their families, who in turn informed local human rights organizations, that the security guards threatened them with police dogs, tied them up, hit them and beat them with planks of wood. On 1 March, the youths reported that they were beaten again, this time by the detention centre staff. The prison staff told the youths that if they complained they would file spurious charges against them, move those over 18 to an adult prison, or prolong their detention on grounds of bad behaviour. Around 18 youths are now pursuing official complaints about the treatment they received, but they are afraid that prison officials may carry out their threats.

Officials with the Nuevo León State Human Rights Commission and a prison doctor visited the youths and confirmed that some of them had visible injuries and marks on their bodies. A local human rights organization is concerned that no medical staff trained in assessing signs of torture have yet seen the victims.

In 1999, the National Human Rights Commission (Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos, CNDH) carried out an investigation into alleged incidents of torture in an adult prison near Monterrey in Nuevo León and called for several prison officials to be investigated. Amnesty International is not aware that all these officials were ever investigated or held to account for their involvement in the abuse committed in that incident.

### PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of detainees at the Monterrey Detention and Re-integration Centre for Young Offenders and calling for their safety to be guaranteed;
- Calling for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the alleged torture of young detainees on 27 February and 1 March and for the detainees to be allowed to pursue their complaints without fear of reprisals;
- Calling for the detainees to be examined by independent medical staff trained in assessing signs of torture according to international human rights standards contained in the Istanbul Protocol;
- Calling for all officials involved to be thoroughly investigated and sanctioned if found guilty and for the authorities to publish the findings of their enquiry.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 APRIL 2010 TO:

#### Governor of Nuevo León state

Lic. Rodrigo Medina de la Cruz  
 Gobernador del Estado de Nuevo León  
 Palacio de Gobierno, Calle Zaragoza  
 Monterrey 64000, MEXICO  
**Email:** [gobernador@nuevoleon.gob.mx](mailto:gobernador@nuevoleon.gob.mx)  
**Fax:** (+52) 81 2020 1087  
**Salutation:** Dear Governor/  
 Señor Gobernador

#### Attorney General of Nuevo León

Lic. Alejandro Garza y Garza  
 Procurador del Estado de Nuevo León  
 Ave. Melchor Ocampo 470 Poniente -  
 Monterrey, 64000, MEXICO  
**Email:** [alejandrogarzayg@nuevoleon.gob.mx](mailto:alejandrogarzayg@nuevoleon.gob.mx)  
**Fax:** (+52) 81 2020 4094  
**Salutation:** Dear Attorney General/  
 Señor Procurador General

#### President of the Nuevo León Human Rights Commission

Lic. Minerva E. Martínez Garza  
 Presidenta de la CEDHNL  
 Ave. Ignacio Morones Prieto 2110-2  
 Edificio Manchester, Col. Loma Larga,  
 Monterrey, 64710, MEXICO  
**Email:** [minervamartinez@cedhnl.org.mx](mailto:minervamartinez@cedhnl.org.mx)  
**Fax:** (+52) 81 8344 9199  
**Salutation:** Dear Attorney General/  
 Señor Procurador General

**COPIES TO:** Local organization: Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos, e-mail: [cadhac@cadhac.org](mailto:cadhac@cadhac.org). **Also send copies to diplomatic representatives of Mexico accredited to your country.** Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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INTERNATIONAL**

