

URGENT ACTION

MEXICAN POLICE CHIEF ATTACKS HIS EX-PARTNER

A female federal police officer in Querétaro, central Mexico, has been physically assaulted and threatened by her ex-partner, who is the federal police chief for the state. The authorities have refused to take action against him. She is at risk of further attacks, as are the women's rights organizations that have helped her.

According to information received by Amnesty International, **Margarita González Carpio** was at home in Querétaro City on 24 September when her ex-partner, who is in charge of the Federal Police in Querétaro state, arrived with his bodyguard. He entered the house with his own key and tried to force Margarita González Carpio to have sexual intercourse. When she refused he hit, punched and kicked her, leaving her unconscious. He also threatened to kill her. The bodyguard intervened at one moment to temporarily halt the attack.

The following day, her former partner released her and left, warning her not to file a complaint against him. She tried to file complaints with the State Prosecutor's Office (Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado, PGJE) but was turned away, despite displaying clear physical signs of the attack. Representatives of Federal Attorney General's office (Procuraduría General de la República, PGR) in Querétaro initially refused to see her, but later granted her a medical examination then sent her to hospital for emergency attention. During the day she was followed by men she did not know, who warned her not to file a complaint. Two federal police officers entered the hospital to pressure her but were forced to leave by medical staff. The following day the PGR refused to open an enquiry apparently because of the status and connections of the police chief, despite three medical certificates confirming Margarita González Carpio's injuries. On 26 September, Margarita González Carpio contacted the specialist unit of the PGR based in Mexico City for violent crimes against women (FEVIMTRA). She was later informed that FEVIMTRA would not investigate as the police chief had not committed the crime while on duty. On 27 September, Margarita González Carpio managed to file her complaint with the PGJE of Querétaro. Her injuries were recorded, but no further steps were taken to investigate, hold the perpetrator to account or protect Margarita González Carpio. Women's rights organizations have provided her with support in the face of official refusal to take action.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Urge that protection and security are provided for Margarita González Carpio;
- Urge that protection and security are provided for the local organizations, Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres (CEDEHM) and Centro Integral de Atención a las Mujeres (CIAM), which have supported her;
- Demand a full and impartial investigation into the assault, and also an investigation into the failure of the authorities to hold the perpetrator to account, protect the victim and bring all those responsible to justice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 25 NOVEMBER 2011 TO:

Attorney General of the Republic

Marisela Morales Ibáñez
Av. Paseo de la reforma 211 – 213
Col. Cuauhtémoc, Del. Cuauhtémoc
México D.F., C.P. 06500, México
Fax: +52 55 5346 0908 (keep trying and ask for "fax")

Email: mmoralesi@pgr.gob.mx

Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Secretary of Public Safety

Ing. Genaro García Luna
Secretaría de Seguridad Pública
Constituyentes n° 947
Edif. "B" planta alta
Col. Belén de las Flores
Del. Álvaro, Obregón
México D.F., C.P. 01110
México
Fax: +52 55 1103 6189 (keep trying)
Email: genaro.garcia@ssp.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Secretary

And copies to:

Attorney of Querétaro state

Lic. Arsenio Durán Becerra
Autopista México-Querétaro No. 2060, Col.
Centro Sur,
Santiago de Querétaro, Qro., C.P. 76090,
Mexico
Fax: +52 442 2387 7600 (ext. 1116, keep trying)

Email: vaguilera@queretaro.gob.mx

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Violence against women remains widespread in Mexico. Killings, assault, sexual violence and threats are suffered by women in all walks of life. Perpetrators are rarely held to account, particularly when they are in positions of authority. Despite legal measures recognising women's right to live their lives free from violence, federal and state authorities routinely fail to uphold the law to prevent and punish violence against women.

Name: Margarita González Carpio

Gender m/f: female

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