

PUBLIC

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06 December 2006

Further Information on UA 323/06 (AMR 41/056/2006, 29 November 2006) Fear for safety/ Threats/ Arbitrary arrests New concern: Torture and ill-treatment

MEXICO **Father Carlos Franco Pérez Méndez (m), Catholic priest**
Alberto Tlacacl Cilia Ocampo (m) [please note corrected name],
human rights defender with the organization Yaxkin Human Rights Centre (*Centro de Derechos Humanos Yaxkin*)
Members of the organization Services for an Alternative Education (*Servicios para una Educación Alternativa, EDUCA*)
Other human rights defenders working in Oaxaca

New Names: **Father Francisco Wilfrido Mayrén Peláez (m) priest and human rights defender with the organization "Bartolomé Carrasco Briseño" Human Rights Centre (Centro Regional de derechos humanos "Bartolomé Carrasco Briseño")**
Sara Mendez (f)
Sarah Weldon (f)
Omar Rodriguez Camarena (m)

Amnesty International has received further reports that individuals and organizations working to protect human rights in Oaxaca are still being threatened and intimidated.

According to reports, Father Francisco Wilfrido Mayrén Peláez, a Catholic priest and human rights defender with the organization "Bartolomé Carrasco Briseño" Human Rights Centre (Centro Regional de derechos humanos "Bartolomé Carrasco Briseño") has been intimidated and threatened on numerous occasions since 19 October, when he received an anonymous telephone call saying "*te vamos a matar, te vamos a partir tu madre (...)*" ("we are going to kill you, we are going to beat you up (...)"). Since then, various unidentified individuals, some of whom were reportedly state or municipal police officers in civilian clothes, have been asking about his whereabouts or carrying out surveillance around his church. Since 25 November, Father Francisco Wilfrido Mayrén Peláez has also been reportedly followed on a number of occasions by cars without licence plates. In addition, he was accused of being "*el padre guerrillero*" (the guerrilla priest) in a local pro-government newspaper, *El Imparcial*. The pro-government pirate radio station *Radio Ciudadana* has accused the priest of "subversion" and of protecting criminals.

Radio Ciudadana is apparently still broadcasting in the Oaxaca region and continuing to incite violence against human rights defenders and organization and individuals perceived as sympathetic to the opposition movement, the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (*Asamblea Popular del Pueblo de Oaxaca, APPO*). Amnesty International has received reports that Sara Mendez, who works with the Oaxacan Network for Human Rights (*Red Oaxaqueña de Derechos Humanos*) was among a group of human rights defenders and organizations accused of being part of APPO and of being "*defensores de delincuentes*" (defenders of criminals) on several occasions by *Radio Ciudadana* in late November.

Alberto Tlacacl Cilia Ocampo (note corrected name), a university student documenting human rights violations for the Mexico City-based organization, Yaxkin Human Rights Centre (*Centro de Derechos Humanos Yaxkin*) is in detention in the state penitentiary of Ixcotel, Oaxaca. Two others arrested with him, Sarah Weldon and Omar Rodriguez Camarena, are also in detention. The three were reportedly arrested by state police officers on fabricated charges and were subjected to physical and mental torture. Alberto Tlacacl Cilia Ocampo and Omar Rodriguez Camarena were able to speak to relatives only after three days in detention.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing concern at the intimidation of human rights defenders working in the state of Oaxaca;
- urging the authorities to investigate the intimidation suffered by human rights defender and Catholic priest Father Francisco Wilfrido Mayrén Peláez since 19 October 2006, and to take immediate measures to ensure his safety;
- calling on the authorities to investigate the incitement to violence by presenters of Radio Ciudadana against individuals and organizations working for the protection of human rights, and to take the appropriate measures to end these broadcasts and to bring those responsible to justice;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee the safety of Sara Mendez and all the human rights defenders and organizations that have been targeted by Radio Ciudadana;
- calling for the authorities to grant Alberto Tlacacl Cilia Ocampo, Sarah Weldon and Omar Rodriguez Camarena immediate access to relatives, medical assistance, a lawyer of their choice and to ensure their rights to physical and mental integrity, due process and fair trial;
- calling on the authorities to fully apply the human rights standards in any decision or practical measure related to the mentioned cases, in particular, the UN Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties which recognizes the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders and protects their right to carry out their activities without any restrictions or fear of reprisals.

APPEALS TO:

President of Mexico

Lie. Felipe Calderón Hinojosa
Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
Residencia Oficial de "Los Pinos", Casa Miguel Alemán
Col. San Miguel Chapultepec
México D.F., C.P. 11850, MEXICO

Fax: + 52 55 52772376

Salutation: Señor Presidente / Dear President

Minister of the Interior

Lie. Francisco Ramírez Acuña
Secretario de Gobernación, Secretaria de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez, Delegación Cuauhtémoc,
México D.F., C.P.06600, MEXICO

Salutation: Dear Minister/ Estimado Secretario de Gobernación

Governor of Oaxaca

Ulises Ruiz Ortiz
Gobernador del Estado de Oaxaca, Carretera Oaxaca - Puerto Angel, Km. 9.5
Santa Maria Coyotopec, C. P. 71254, Oaxaca, Oaxaca, MEXICO
Fax: + 52 951 511 6879 (if someone answers, say "me da tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Señor Gobernador/Dear Governor

President of the National Human Rights Commission

Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández
Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDH)
Periférico Sur 3469, 5° piso, Col. San Jerónimo Lídice, México D.F. 10200, MEXICO

Fax: +52 55 5681 7199

Salutation: Dear President / Estimado Presidente

COPIES TO:

President of the Oaxaca State Human Rights Commission

Dr. Jaime Pérez Jiménez
Presidente de la Comisión Estatal
Calle de los Derechos Humanos no. 210, Colonia América, C.P. 68050, Oaxaca, Oaxaca, 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 17 January 2007.