

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 28/94 Extrajudicial executions/fear for safety

27 January 1994

MEXICO Jorge Mariano SOLÍS, 21  
Eduardo GÓMEZ HERNÁNDEZ, 22

and at least nine other members of indigenous communities in Chiapas

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Amnesty International has learned of the reported extrajudicial execution of Jorge Solís and Eduardo Gómez following their abduction by members of the armed forces on 6 January 1994. These killings heighten the organization's fears for the lives of at least 9 other people who have "disappeared" in Chiapas since the beginning of January. (See also UA 25/94, AMR 41/01/94, 26 January 1994).

Jorge Solís and Eduardo Gómez were reportedly detained on 6 January in the indigenous community of Las Margaritas, state of Chiapas, by members of the local police force and taken to the municipal jail. The same day witnesses saw them being taken from the jail by members of the armed forces and driven towards the community of El Progreso, also in Chiapas. They were not seen alive again. In the morning of 24 January, their putrefying bodies were found in a ditch in the vicinity of Agua Prieta, near Las Margaritas. A forensic examination by the Attorney General's Office (*Procuraduría General de la República*) found that the bodies had multiple stab wounds. Two representatives of the US-based human rights organization, Physicians for Human Rights, who were present at the autopsy have verified the findings.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 1 January 1994, a previously unknown armed opposition group called the *Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN)*, Zapatista National Liberation Army, took control of several towns in the state of Chiapas. By the end of the week, the EZLN, most of whose members seem to belong to local Tzotzil Indian communities, had retreated towards dense and mostly uninhabited jungle areas although heavy fighting between the armed forces and the rebels continued to be reported. On 5 and 6 January Indigenous communities outside the city of San Cristóbal de las Casas were bombed from the air. On 12 January the government declared a ceasefire, although there were reports of continuing land attacks by the armed forces during the following days. Early reports indicated a number of human rights abuses, such as the extrajudicial execution of at least five rebels and the torture of rebel and civilian detainees at the hands of the security forces.

Chiapas has long been the scene of human rights abuses by the security forces in the context of land disputes and allegations of electoral fraud. These violations have included mass and arbitrary arrests, torture, ill-treatment

and political killings. A large number of the victims of such abuses belong to the poorest sectors of the population, some of them indigenous. Very rarely have those responsible been brought to justice.

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

- expressing concern at the abduction and subsequent killing of Jorge Mariano Solís and Eduardo Gómez Hernández by members of the armed forces in Las Margaritas, state of Chiapas, and calling for those responsible to be promptly brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the lives of at least nine others who have "disappeared" since the beginning of the armed conflict on 1 January 1994 and requesting that there be an immediate and thorough investigation into their whereabouts;
- urging that if any of these nine "disappeared" are in detention, that they be humanely treated and allowed access to lawyers and relatives;
- urging that if they are in detention, that they be charged with a recognizable offence or released immediately.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President of the Republic

Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari  
 Presidente de la República  
 Palacio Nacional  
 06067 México D.F., Mexico

**Telegrams: Presidente Salinas, México D.F., Mexico**

**Telexes: 170937 sppnme; 1774468 sppnme**

**Faxes: +52 5 271 1764**

**Salutation: Sr. Presidente/Dear President**

2) Minister of Defense

Gral. Antonio Riviello Bazán  
 Secretario de Defensa Nacional  
 Secretaría de Defensa Nacional  
 Ávila Camacho e Industria Militar  
 Lomas de Sotelo  
 11640 México DF, Mexico

**Telegrams: Ministro Defensa, Mexico DF, Mexico**

**Faxes: +52 5 557 7904**

**Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) National Human Rights Commission

Sres.  
 Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos  
 Periférico Sur 3469  
 Col San Jerónimo Lídice  
 10200 México DF, Mexico

2) Non-governmental Human Rights Group

Sres.  
 CONPAZ - Coordinación de los ONGs  
 de San Cristóbal de las Casas por la Paz  
 Avda. 5 de Mayo No. 21  
 Barrio La Merced

San Cristóbal de las Casas  
Chiapas, Mexico

3) daily newspaper

Sr. Editor

La Jornada

Balderas 68

06050 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 10 March 1994.