

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/05/97

31 January 1997

Further information (2) on UA 265/96 (AMR 41/76/96, 18 November 1996) and follow-ups AMR 41/81/96, 10 December, and AMR 41/82/96, 13 December - Fear for safety

MEXICORuth Yudit Ortega Orozco (f), aged 21, student activist

Ruth Yudit Ortega Orozco continues to be harassed by anonymous telephone threats. At a quarter past midnight on 1 January 1997, an anonymous caller said to her, "New Year, new tactics".

Ruth Yudit Ortega had been involved in peaceful demonstrations in support of the street-cleaners from Tabasco state who were on hunger-strike in Mexico City regarding their appalling working conditions. According to reports, on Sunday 19 January, three of them, who were critically ill, were forcibly removed by police officers from their place of protest and taken to hospital. At the same time, a woman telephoned Ruth Ortega's house claiming to be a friend. Afterwards she found out that her friend had never called her. On Saturday 25 January, Ruth Ortega received a new threat: "*The Tabasco street-sweepers didn't die, but you will.*"

Ruth Yudit Ortega reports that she is now receiving telephone threats almost daily, always around 9 am and 9 pm. When the phone is picked up, the caller remains silent, but doesn't hang up.

On 28 March a man followed Ruth Yudit Ortega for almost an hour from her college to the teacher's association [*sindicato de maestros*] in Mexico City.

Fears for her safety have increased. To Amnesty International's knowledge Ruth Yudit Ortega Orozco has not been offered any protection by the authorities.

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

- calling on the Mexican authorities to guarantee the physical safety of Ruth Yudit Ortega;
- expressing dismay at the failure of the Mexican authorities so far to provide Ruth Yudit Ortega with effective protection requested by her;
- reiterating fears for the safety of Ruth Yudit Ortega who has been abducted, tortured and repeatedly threatened, apparently in connection with her student activism;
- calling for an impartial and independent investigation to be carried out into the abductions, torture and threats, for the findings to be made public and for anyone responsible to be brought to justice;
- asking to be kept informed of any developments, in particular any measure taken to protect her life.

APPEALS TO

1) Minister of Interior
Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor
Secretario de Gobernación
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucarelli 99, 1er piso,
Col Juarez
06699 México D.F., MÉXICO

Telegrams: Secretario de Gobernación, México DF, México
Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350
Salutation: Sr. Secretario/ Dear Minister

2) Attorney General of the Republic
Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar
Procuraduría General de la República
Paseo de la Reforma y Violeta
Col. Guerrero
06300 México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: Sr. Procurador de la República, México D.F.
Fax: +52 5 626 4419
Salutation: Sr. Procurador de la República/Dear Attorney

3) Attorney General of the Federal District
Lic. José Antonio González Fernández
Procurador del Distrito Federal
Paseo de la Reforma 75
México 06200 D.F.
MEXICO

Telegrams: Sr. Procurador General del Distrito Federal, México D.F.
Faxes: + 52 5 625 7081
Salutation: Sr. Procurador/ Dear Attorney

When dialing fax numbers, if voice, ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor"

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Plantel Azcapotzalco
Torre de la Rectoría
04510 México D.F., 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 14 March 1997.