

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/005/2001

UA 21/00

Fear for

**MEXICO**      **Inti GATICA MARTINEZ (minor)**  
                 **Raúl GATICA, his father (indigenous rights defender)**  
**Members of the Popular Indigenous Council of Oaxaca "Ricardo Flores Magón"**

Police are looking for indigenous rights defender Raúl Gatica, and have threatened to arrest his son, a minor. Amnesty International is concerned for their safety, and that of Raúl Gatica's colleagues at the indigenous rights organisation he works for, the *Consejo Indígena Popular de Oaxaca "Ricardo Flores Magón"* (CIPO "RFM"), "Ricardo Flores Magón" Popular Indigenous Council of Oaxaca.

On 13 January, a group of Oaxaca State Judicial Police (*Policía Judicial del Estado de Oaxaca*, PJE), arrived in the community of San Isidro Monjas, municipality of Xoxocotlan. They burst into the home of a CIPO "RFM" member, asking for Raúl Gatica. They threatened to arrest Gatica's son Inti Gatica Martínez, who was in the house, if he did not tell them where they could find his father. Police had reportedly beaten Inti Gatica a few days earlier.

Soldiers are reported to have intimidated and interrogated people from the neighbouring Zapotec indigenous communities of Santiago Xanica and San Andrés Lovene before the incident in San Isidro Monjas (see UA 05/01, AMR 41/001/2001, 10 January 2001).

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The authorities have claimed that the PJE and the army are in the region to combat organized drug traffickers and armed groups operating in parts of Oaxaca. However, human rights defenders have claimed that soldiers and the PJE deployed in rural areas often commit abuses, including searching premises without a judicial order, stealing goods belonging to local people, and acts of intimidation, harassment and arbitrary arrest.

Amnesty International recognizes that the authorities have an obligation to ensure law and order is maintained, but in doing so they must ensure that at all times the security forces fully comply with human right standards.

A new federal government came into power in Mexico on 1 December 2000. In his inaugural speech before Congress, President Vicente Fox Quesada pledged that his government would pursue a policy of full respect for human rights and that Mexico would no longer have to answer before the international community for having a poor human rights record.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Spanish, English or your own language:**

- expressing concern that members of the Oaxaca State Judicial Police threatened to arrest Inti Gatica Martínez, a minor, not for any crime, but to intimidate him into giving them information about his father, Raúl Gatica, in the community of San Isidro Monjas, municipality of Xoxocotlan, on 13 January 2001;
- expressing concern that police had allegedly beaten Inti Gatica Martínez a few days earlier;
- calling for a prompt and independent investigation into the allegations, with the findings made public, and those responsible brought to justice;

- calling on the authorities to guarantee the safety of Inti Gatica Martínez, his father and members of the "Ricardo Flores Magón" Popular Indigenous Council of Oaxaca (*Consejo Indígena Popular de Oaxaca "Ricardo Flores Magón"*).

**APPEALS TO:**

President of the Republic

Lic. Vicente Fox Quesada  
Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos  
Palacio Nacional, Patio de Honor  
Primer piso, Col. Centro  
México D.F., C.P. 06067  
MEXICO

**Telegrams: President, Mexico D.F., Mexico**

**Fax: + 525 515 5729 / 277 2376**

**Salutation: Señor Presidente / Dear Mr President**

Governor of Oaxaca State

Lic. José Murat Casab  
Gobernador del Estado de Oaxaca  
Palacio de Gobierno  
Bustamente s/n  
Oaxaca 68000  
Estado de Oaxaca  
MEXICO

**Telegrams: Gobernador del Estado, Oaxaca**

**Fax: + 529 516 3737**

**Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor**

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Santiago Creel  
Secretario de Gobernación  
Secretaría de Gobernación  
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez  
México D.F., C.P. 06699  
MEXICO

**Telegrams: Secretario de Gobernacion, Mexico D.F., Mexico**

**Fax: + 525 546 5350 / 546 7388**

**Salutation: Señor Secretario / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Human Rights Network of Oaxaca

Red Oaxaqueña de Derechos Humanos  
c/o Centro de Derechos Humanos 'Los Príncipes'  
González Ortega No415, Oaxaca 68000  
Oaxaca, 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 11 March 2001.