

PUBLIC

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Fear for safety / Death threat

15 February 2000

MEXICO

Arturo Solís and other members of Centro de Estudios  
Fronterizos y Promoción de Derechos Humanos (CEFPROD HAC),  
Centre for Border Studies and Human Rights Promotion

On 9 February 2000 an anonymous caller rang the offices of the human rights organization named above and threatened its members with death. Amnesty International is very concerned for their safety.

The caller said: "dejen de estar chingando la madre o se los va a llevar la verga a todos", "stop fucking with things or you are all going to get it". CEFPROD HAC, a non-governmental (NGO) organization based in Reynosa, Tamaulipas State, campaigns against human rights violations in the state.

On 27 January a recently killed eagle which had had its neck broken was left outside CEFPROD HAC offices. Arturo Solís, the director of the organization, believes this was meant as a sinister warning to him and other members of the organization, as a result of their work.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Human rights defenders in Mexico are often intimidated and harassed. In recent years Amnesty International has received many reports of human rights workers being threatened with death, coming under armed attack and being arbitrarily detained. Investigations by the authorities into these crimes rarely results in those responsible being brought to justice.

In recent months the Mexico city-based NGO, *Centro de Derechos Humanos "Miguel Augustin Pro Juarez"* (PRODH), the Miguel Augustin pro Juarez Centre for Human Rights and its lawyer Digna Ochoa have been the target of sustained death threats. The persistence and gravity of the threats resulted in the Inter-American Court on Human Rights issuing a resolution in November 1999 requesting Mexico take all necessary measures to protect the safety of PRODH staff and bring those responsible to justice.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Arturo Solís and other members of CEFPROD HAC after its members were threatened with death by an anonymous caller on 9 February 2000;
- calling on the authorities to take all steps, agreed to by those at risk, to guarantee their safety;
- asking the authorities to carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the threats, to make the results public and to bring all those responsible to justice.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

National Commission for Human Rights

Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández

Comision Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDH)

Av. Chapultepec N° 49, 1er Piso, Centro, Cuauhtémoc,  
06040 México, DF, Mexico

**Faxes: + 52 5 681 84 90**

**Salutation: Estimado Dr. Soberanes / Dear Dr. Soberanes**

Governor of Tamaulipas State

Lic. Tomas Yarrington

Gobernador del Estado de Tamaulipas

Palacio de Gobierno, Av. Juárez y 5 de Mayo

Ciudad Victoria, 87009, Estado de Tamaulipas, MEXICO

**Telegrams: Gobernador, Cd Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico**

**Faxes: + 52 131 887 01**  
**Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor**

Attorney General of Tamaulipas State

Lic. Eduardo Garza Rivas  
Procurador General del Estado de Tamaulipas  
Palacio de Justicia, Boulevard Fraccedi Balboa s/n  
Col. Centro, Ciudad Victoria, 87000, Estado de Tamaulipas, MEXICO  
**Telegrams: Procurador del Estado, Cd Victoria, Tamaulias, Mexico**  
**Faxes: + 52 131 284 27**  
**Salutation: Sr. Procurador General / Dear Attorney General**

Tamaulipas State Comision for Human Rights

Rafael Torres Hinojosa  
Presidente de la Comisión Estatal de Derechos Humanos  
Calle 14 No. 355 Sur, Centro, 87000, Cd Victoria, Tamaulipas, MEXICO  
**Faxes: + 52 131 245 65/ 246 12 (If voice answers say: "Quiero enviar un fax al presidente de la Comisión, por favor)**  
**Salutation: Estimado Sr Torres / Dear Mr Torres**

**COPIES TO:**

Centre for Border Studies and Human Rights Promotion (non-governmental organization)  
Centro de Estudios Fronterizos y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos.  
Zaragoza No. 650 1er. Piso, despacho 13, Zona Centro, Cd Reynosa, Tamaulipas

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 28 March 2000.