

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"/Fear of Torture/
extrajudicial execution

MEXICO

Armando Mazariegos Paz

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the physical safety of Armando Mazariegos Paz whose whereabouts since his abduction on 12 October 1990 remain unknown. According to reports he was illegally detained at 12.00pm, near the train station of the town of Tapachula, in the southern State of Chiapas. According to witnesses, he was forced into an unmarked vehicle by four individuals in civilian clothes who beat him as he tried to resist their assault.

Armando Mazariegos, 35, who is married with two children, is a Guatemalan national who has lived in Tapachula, Chiapas for the last seven years. He does not have refugee status. He works in the community, providing primary health care and is a member of the board of the Asociación de Guatemaltecos Refugiados Unidos para mejorar la Salud (AGRUMS - Association of Guatemalan Refugees for Improved Health Care). He has also given assistance to Guatemalan citizens and refugees.

According to a local radio broadcast (Radio XEWM-B) in the town of San Cristóbal de las Casas, his detention was carried out by members of the intelligence service of the Guatemalan army, known as G2, who, it is alleged, are active in the border area with Guatemala. Amnesty International has received no further information which would confirm these allegations.

According to reports, in July and August this year, troops of the Guatemalan army have entered Guatemalan refugee camps in Santa Elena Lagartero, Santiago el Vértice and Tzisco inside Mexican territory. There are said to be at least 40,000 Guatemalan refugees living in Mexico.

His abduction was denounced before Mexico's Secretaría de Gobernación (Ministry of the Interior) on 22 October.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters

- urging immediate clarification of his whereabouts and legal status and that if in detention his physical safety be guaranteed, he be allowed access to a lawyer and relatives and immediately released unless charged with a recognizable criminal offence;

- expressing concern about reports of the possible participation of members of the Guatemalan security forces in the detention of Armando Mazariegos Paz and at the harassment of Guatemalan citizens in Mexican territory and urging Mexican authorities to take up the allegations with appropriate Guatemalan officials.

APPEALS TO:

Lic. Fernando Gutiérrez Barrios
Secretario de Gobernación
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, 1er piso

06699 Mexico DF

Telegrams: Secretario Gobernacion, Mexico DF, Mexico
Telexes: 1774375/1774376 SGOBME

Dr. Jorge Carpizo
Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos
Constituyentes 161, séptimo piso
Col. San Miguel Chapultepec
Mexico DF 11850

Telegrams: Dr Carpizo, Comision Nacional Derechos Humanos, Col San Miguel
Chapultepec, Mexico

Sr. José Patrocinio González Garrido
Gobernador del Estado de Chiapas
Casa de Gobierno
Avenida Central y Primera Oriente
Colonia Centro
29009 Tuxla Gutiérrez
Estado Chiapas, MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador Chiapas, Tuxla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico

COPIES TO:

Sres.
Producep ac
Patricio Saenz 449
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Col. del Valle
Mexico DF CP3100

Sres.
Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de las Casas
5 de febrero No. 6
San Cristóbal de las Casas
Chiapas - CP 29200
MEXICO

Sres.
Proceso
Fresas 13
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PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat
or your Section Office if sending appeals after
3 December 1990.