

UA 60/01

Death thro**MEXICO**The family of Eduardo Torres GARCICRESPO

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Four policemen convicted of shooting dead Eduardo Torres Garcicrespo may shortly be released, and it is feared that they will try to take revenge on his family, whose testimony helped to convict them. The family have received death threats.

One of the policemen has had his sentence reduced on appeal. The other three have appeal hearings scheduled this week, and it is believed that they too will have their sentences reduced. If so, all four could be released within days.

Eduardo Torres Garcicrespo was shot dead on 30 March 1995. He had called his family on his mobile phone to say that his car was being followed by two police patrol cars, and that he was frightened. He drove to his parents' house, but one of the policemen shot him at point-blank range before he reached the front door. The other three apparently helped to cover up the crime.

The four policemen were found guilty of aggravated homicide (*homicidio calificado*) and abuse of authority in September 1996, and sentenced to 36 years in prison. All four appealed, but had their sentences increased to 50 years. One policeman filed a further appeal, which resulted in his sentence being reduced to seven years after the charges against him were reduced. The *preliberación* system in Mexico means that as he has served the majority of his sentence, he now qualifies for early release. The other three policemen have filed similar appeals, which are due to be heard this week.

Since Eduardo Torres Garcicrespo was killed, his widow and children have been receiving anonymous death threats. An anonymous caller has told the children that he is going to kill their mother. In one telephone death threat the speaker said, "*habla la judicial*", "this is the police speaking". The latest death threat was received in January 2001.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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 for the safety of the family of Eduardo Torres Garcicrespo, and urging the authorities to take action to protect them.

**APPEALS TO:**

Head of Government of the Federal District of Mexico

Lic. Andrés Manuel López Obrador

Jefe de Gobierno del Distrito Federal

Plaza de la Constitución esq. Pino Suárez

Piso 1, Col. Centro 06068(5)

México D.F.

MEXICO

**Telegrams: Jefe Gobierno, DF, México**

**Fax: (+52 5) 510 0771 / 521 0722**

**Salutation: Dear Head of Government / Señor Jefe de Gobierno**

Attorney General of the Federal District of Mexico

Procurador General de Distrito Federal

Mtro. Bernardo Bátiz Vázquez

Gabriel Hernández # 56, 5° piso,

col. Doctores, c.p. 06720,

México D.F.

**Telegrams: Procurador General Justicia, DF**

**Salutation: Dear Attorney/ Señor Procurador**

President of the Commission for Human Rights for the Federal District of Mexico

Dr. Luis de la Barrera Solórzano

Presidente de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos del D.F

Av. Chapultepec No. 49, esq. Dr. Lucio, 1er piso

Col. Centro

Deleg. Cuauhtémoc

06040, México, D.F.

MEXICO

**Fax: (+ 52 5) 578 2578**

**COPIES TO:**

Non-governmental Human Rights Organisation

Centro de Derechos Humanos "Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C.

Serapio Rendon 57-B

Col. San Rafael, 06470

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 26 April 2001.