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Torture/Fear for Safety

7 September 1994

**MEXICO David LOZANO TOVAR, student activist  
and other human rights and student activists**

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Amnesty International is calling for immediate measures to be taken to ensure the physical integrity of David Lozana, a student activist, as well as other human rights and student activists, following Lozana's abduction and torture on 2 September 1994 in Mexico City.

David Ángel Lozano Tovar, a student leader from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), was abducted by four unidentified armed men, believed to be members of the security forces. He was released on 3 September and states that he was tortured in detention.

David Lozano was reportedly taken to a house and interrogated about his activities during the National Democratic Convention held in Chiapas at the beginning of August 1994. He was beaten and given electric shocks to the back. When he was released, he was told, "you know what could happen to you if you continue doing the same things". It is believed that this incident is related to a letter published in a national newspaper in Mexico City by a group of students including David Lozano, calling for a national students' meeting to discuss the political situation following the general elections of 21 August 1994.

Reports indicate that other student and human rights activists have also been harassed and beaten by unidentified men since the elections. Rosario Ibarra, president of the Committee of the Relatives of the "Disappeared", *Comité Eureka*, who also attended the National Democratic Convention, has alleged that she has been followed by two cars and one motorcycle without number plates since the elections. Members of the Fray Francisco Vitoria Human Rights Centre, *Centro de Derechos Humanos "Fray Francisco Vitoria"*, in Mexico City, have also reported that their centre has been under observation by unidentified persons after they denounced the illegal detention of David Lozano to the authorities.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The National Democratic Convention was organized by grassroots and human rights groups in the state of Chiapas during the first week of August 1994, as an alternative forum to discuss political reform and the general elections. Members of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation, *Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN)*, who staged an armed uprising in Chiapas in January 1994, were present at the convention.

Church and human rights activists monitoring the human rights situation in Chiapas have been the targets of harassment and intimidation at the hands of members of the security forces in the recent past.

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

- expressing concern at the abduction and torture of David Lozano at the hands of four armed men believed to be members of the security forces;
- requesting a prompt and impartial investigation into these allegations and

calling for those responsible to be brought to justice;  
 - urging immediate measures to ensure the physical integrity of David Lozano and student and human rights activists, particularly those who have been harassed since the election; and to guarantee their right to continue carrying out their activities without fear of persecution.

**APPEALS TO**

President of the Republic

Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari  
 Presidente de la República  
 Palacio Nacional  
 06067 México D.F., Mexico

**Telegrams: Presidente Salinas, México D.F., Mexico**

**Telexes: 170937 sppnme; 1774468 sppnme**

**Faxes: +52 5 271 1764**

**Salutation: Sr. Presidente/Dear President**

Interior Minister

Dr Jorge Carpizo McGregor  
 Secretario de Gobernación  
 Secretaría de Gobernación  
 Bucarelli 99, 1er piso  
 Colonia Juárez  
 06669 México DF, MEXICO

**Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México D.F., Mexico**

**Telexes: 1774376, 1774375**

**Faxes: +52 5 703 2171**

**Salutation: Sr. Secretario de Gobernación/Dear Minister**

Attorney General's Office

Lic Humberto Benítez Treviño  
 Procurador General de la República  
 Procuraduría General de la República  
 Paseo de la Reforma y Violeta  
 Colonia Guerrero  
 06300 Mexico DF, MEXICO

**Telegrams: Procurador General, Mexico D.F., Mexico**

**Telexes: 1777572**

**Faxes: +52 5 626 4430**

**Salutation: Sr Procurador General/Dear Attorney General**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

National Human Rights Commission

Sres.  
 Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos  
 Periférico Sur 3469  
 Col San Jerónimo Lídice  
 10200 México DF, Mexico

Human rights organization

Sres.  
 Centro de Derechos Humanos  
 "Fray Francisco de Vitoria, OP"  
 Odontología 35,

Col Copilco Universidad  
04360 México DF, Mexico

Daily newspaper

Sr. Editor  
La Jornada  
Balderas 68  
06050 México DF, 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 19 October 1994.