

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/22/98

21 April 1998

Further information on UA 115/98 (AMR 41/21/98, 15 April 1998) - Possible Prisoners of Conscience/Fear for safety

MEXICO190 Indigenous women from the community of Tanilerpa

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of 190 indigenous women from the community of Talerpa, Ocosingo municipality, Chiapas State, who have reportedly been threatened with rape by members of *Movimiento Indígena Revolucionario Antizapatista* (MIRA), Antizapatist Revolutionary Indigenous Movement, a paramilitary group alleged to have strong links with the authorities in the region.

The threats have been occurring since 13 people from Talerpa community were detained by the Mexican security forces on 11 and 13 April 1998 (see UA 115/98, AMR 41/21/98, 15 April 1998). Following the detentions, the majority of the male population of Talerpa fled to the surrounding mountains to avoid any possible confrontation with either the MIRA or the security forces. It has been reported that the rape threats have taken place in an attempt to force the men in hiding to come down from the mountains.

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

- seeking assurances from the authorities that the physical safety of the 190 Tzeltal women will be guaranteed;
- calling for an investigation to be opened into the rape threats reportedly made by the *Movimiento Indígena Revolucionario Antizapatista* (MIRA), Antizapatist Revolutionary Indigenous Movement, an alleged paramilitary group operating in the region, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- continuing to urge that charges be made against the 13 people detained between 11 and 13 April 1998 in Taniperla, Ocosingo municipality, Chiapas State, or that they be immediately and unconditionally released;
- expressing concern at the continuing activities of alleged paramilitary activity in Chiapas State.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of the State of Chiapas

Lic. Roberto Albores Guillén

Gobernador del Estado de Chiapas

Palacio de Gobierno, Piso 1, Col. Centro, 29000

Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Estado de Chiapas, MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador del Estado, Chiapas, México

Faxes: + 52 961 20918

Salutations: Sr. Procurador / Dear Governor

Attorney General of Chiapas

Lic. Jorge Hernández Aguilar

Procurador General de Chiapas

Procuraduría General de Chiapas

Tuxtla Gutierrez, Estado de Chiapas, MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador del Estado, Chiapas, México

Faxes: + 52 961 65376 (if voice, ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Procurador / Dear State Attorney General

COPIES TO:

Comite de Derechos Humanos "Fray Lorenzo de la Nada"
Parroquia San Jacinto
Ocosingo
Chiapas, 29950, Mexico

"Fray Bartolomé de las Casas" Human Rights Organization
Francisco León 5
Barrio de Santa Lucía
San Cristóbal de las Casas
Chiapas 29250, México

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 2 June 1998.