

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/23/97

22 April 1997

Further information on EXTRA 54/97 (AMR 41/20/97, 18 April 1997) and follow-up (AMR 41/21/97, 21 April 1997) - Fear of imminent deportation of human rights defenders

MEXICO Vilma Núñez de Escorcia, Nicaraguan national
Benjamín Cuéllar, Salvadorean national

and new name Georgina Porter, US national

Georgina Porter, member of the Unitarian Universalist Committee, a non-governmental organization based in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, had her visa withdrawn by Mexican immigration officials on 21 April 1997 in the city of Oaxaca, state of Oaxaca. Georgina Porter had been visiting local human rights organizations in the area.

Amnesty International fears that she may be arbitrarily expelled from Mexico, as happened in the case of Vilma Núñez de Escorcia and Benjamín Cuéllar on 20 April 1997 (see original EXTRA and previous update).

Amnesty International strongly condemns this new attempt by the Mexican Government to curtail the peaceful activities of international human rights defenders visiting in Mexico.

The organization believes that it is the inescapable responsibility of states to guarantee the free exercise of the right to promote and defend human rights.

States are fundamentally obliged to protect and promote this right, to prevent it from being threatened, restricted, or suppressed, and to protect the liberties and security of those who exercise it.

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

- expressing serious concern that Georgina Porter, a human rights defender, has had her visa withdrawn by Mexican immigration officials, on 21 April 1997, in Oaxaca, state of Oaxaca;
- urging that she be allowed to continue her peaceful activities in Mexico on behalf of a recognized international human rights organization and that her access to victims of human rights not be impeded during her visit;
- reminding the authorities of their publicly stated commitment to an open-door policy on international human rights defenders, and urging them to reiterate this in the light of the deportations of Vilma Núñez and Benjamín Cuéllar;
- urging that all human rights defenders be allowed to carry out their peaceful activities in Mexico, in line with the Mexican Government's international commitments.

APPEALS TO:

1. Minister of the Interior:

Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor

Secretario de Gobernación

Secretaría de Gobernación

Bucarelli 99, 1er piso, Col Juárez, 06699 México DF, MEXICO

Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350

Telegrams: Secretario de Gobernacion, Mexico DF, Mexico

Salutation: Sr. Secretario / Dear Minister

2. Minister of Foreign Affairs

Lic. José Ángel Gurría Treviño

Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores

Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores

Av. Ricardo Flores Magón No.1, Colonia Nonoalco Tlatelolco

06995 México D.F., MEXICO

Faxes: +525 782 4109

Telegrams: Ministro Relaciones Exteriores, Mexico DF, Mexico

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/ Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

1. Human rights organization

Centro de Derechos Humanos

"Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C.

Puebla N. 153 Col. Roma,

06700 México D.F. MEXICO

2. Newspaper

Sr. Director

La Jornada

Balderas 68

06050 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 22 May 1997.