

**EXTRA 112/95 Fear for safety / Possible extrajudicial
executions**

26 September 1995

MEXICO

Miguel González Hernández
Juan Martínez López
Juan José Ulloa Pérez
Francisco Zavala Hidalgo
David Tovilla
Gilberto Gómez Maza
Raquel Ramírez Morales (f)
Carlos Bertoni
Apolinar Sáncnez Hernández
and other members of the *Partido Revolucionario Democrático*
(PRD), opposition party

Higinio Sánchez Hernández - killed
Artemio Roblero Roblero - killed

There is serious concern for the safety of members of the *Partido Revolucionario Democrático* (PRD), Democratic Revolutionary Party, in Chiapas state in the run-up to municipal elections scheduled for 15 October 1995. PRD members and their families have been attacked and threatened with death, and fears for their safety have been heightened by the killing of two PRD members in recent days.

According to reports, dozens of members of the PRD in Chiapas are reported to have been targeted with threats, including: Miguel González Hernández, a candidate for the presidential council (*presidente municipal*) in Jitotol; Juan Martínez López, candidate for member of parliament (MP) in the VII district in Ocosingo, who has reportedly received threats against his wife and daughter; Juan José Ulloa Pérez, candidate for the presidential council in Jiquipilas; Francisco Zavala Hidalgo, candidate for the presidential council in Reforma, who was threatened with the kidnapping of his 10-year-old daughter; David Tovilla, candidate for standby MP; Gilberto Gómez Maza, parliamentary candidate; Raquel Ramírez Morales, candidate for local MP for the XXIII district, whose daughter was the subject of an attempted kidnapping by unknown men; Carlos Bertoni, press office adviser for the State Electoral Committee (*Secretario de Prensa del Consejo Estatal Electoral*), who has received several death threats since the murder of another PRD candidate, Roberto Hernández Paniagua on 6 September 1994 (See UA 332/94, AMR 41/17/94, 9 September 1995).

Sixty-three families of PRD members are reported to have received death threats in Tila municipality in Chiapas state, allegedly from members of the *Partido Revolucionario Institucional* (PRI), Institutional Revolutionary Party, and attacks by members of the *Guardias Blancas*, local "death squads".

On 19 September 1995 Higinio Sánchez Hernández and his brother Apolinar, both members of PRD, were shot by unidentified men. Higinio Sánchez died hours later in the hospital and Apolinar was seriously wounded. On 17 September Artemio Roblero Roblero, a member of PRD standing as a candidate in the local municipal elections, was murdered outside his home in the town Angel Albino Corzo. According to reports he was shot at by two unidentified men believed to be members of the *Guardias Blancas*, acting on behalf of big local ranchers, "caciques". Shortly before his murder Artemio had received death threats warning him to step down from his candidacy. To Amnesty International's

knowledge, no legal proceedings have been initiated to bring those responsible to justice.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Other members of PRD have recently been subjected to harassment. Jorge González Alvarez, a candidate for the presidential council in Usumacinta, in the state of Chiapas, has been issued with an arrest warrant as a result of a string of alleged forgery offences.

In Guerrero state on 13 July 1995, Pablo Salas Romero, a local leader of the PRD, was killed by unidentified gunmen in the town of La Laja, Coyuca de Benítez Municipality. Press reports indicate that those responsible for the murder were members of the State Police. On 14 July, also in Guerrero state, Cristino Bibiano Nava, a 64 year-old peasant and a candidate for the PRD for the town council, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen.

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

- expressing concern at the threats against members of the *Partido Revolucionario Democrático* in Chiapas (name some of them);
- urging the government to take immediate measures to guarantee the safety of all members of PRD;
- calling for steps to be taken immediately to identify those responsible for the threats and to bring them to justice;
- calling for immediate and thorough investigations into the killings of Higinio Sánchez Hernández and Artemio Roblero Roblero, in order to bring those responsible to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of the Republic

Lic. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio Nacional
 06067 México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: Presidente Zedillo, México D.F., México

Telexes: 170937 sppnme; 1774468 sppnme

Faxes: + 52 5 271 1764

Salutation: Sr. President/Dear President

2) Minister of the Interior

Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor
 Secretario de la Gobernación
 Secretaría de la Gobernación
 Bucareli 99, 1er piso
 Col. Juárez
 06699 México DF, MEXICO

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

Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350

Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister

3) Minister of Defence

Gral. Enrique Cervantes Aguirre
 Secretario de la Defensa Nacional
 Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional

Blvd. Manuel Avila Camacho y
Avda. Industria Militar
Col. Lomas de Sotelo
11640 México D-F-. MEXICO

Telegrams: Secretario Defensa, México D.F., México

Faxes: +52 5 557 1370 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

1) Human rights organization

Sres. CONPAZ

Chiapa del Corzo 19, El Cerrillo

San Cristóbal de las Casas

29220 Chiapas, 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 October 1995.