

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/28/95

6 October 1995

Further information on UA 203/95 (AMR 41/19/95, 18 August 1995) and follow-up (AMR 41/27/95, 28 September) - Death threats / Fear for Safety

MEXICO **José Lavanderos Yáñez, human rights lawyer**

On 2 October 1995 José Lavanderos Yáñez, lawyer and member of the non-governmental human rights organization, *Centro de Derechos Humanos Agustín Pro-Juárez (PRODH)*, Human Rights Centre Agustín Pro-Juárez, received death threats. The threats, made anonymously, are believed to have been a result of José Lavanderos Yáñez's work as a lawyer of a group of detainees accused of being members of the Ejército Zapatista de Liberación (EZLN), Zapatista National Liberation Army, an armed opposition group. Some of the detainees have reportedly been tortured to extract confessions.

The threats against José Lavanderos Yáñez, who is also a founding member of the *Frente Nacional de Abogados Democráticos*, National Front of Democratic Lawyers, follow systematic harassment and threats against other PRODH members in recent months, apparently with the aim of undermining the Centre's efforts to defend human rights. The Jesuit order, which founded PRODH, has for a long time been the target of a smear campaign, in which its members have been falsely accused of involvement in guerrilla activities.

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

- expressing concern at the death threats against José Lavanderos Yáñez;
- urging the government to take immediate measures to guarantee the safety of José Lavanderos Yáñez and of all members of the *Centro de Derechos Humanos Agustín Pro-Juárez*;
- calling for steps to be taken immediately to identify those responsible for the threats and for them to be brought 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; 546 7388 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

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 DF, MEXICO

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

Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

1) Human rights organization

Sres.
Centro de Derechos Humanos
Miguel Agustín Pro-Juárez (PRODH)
153 Puebla, Col. Roma,
06700, México DF
Mexico

Faxes: +525 208 7547

2) Weekly magazine

Sr. Editor Rafael Rodríguez Castañeda
El Proceso
Fresas N 13
Col. del Valle
03210, 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 20 November 1995.