

PUBLIC

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Fear for

MEXICO
Gloria Arenas Ajis
Felicitas Padilla Nava
Fernando Gatica Chino
Jacobo Silva Nogales

The four people named above were arrested on 22 October 1999, accused of membership of the armed opposition group *Ejército Revolucionario del Pueblo Insurgente* (ERPI), Revolutionary Army of the Insurgent People. Their relatives have not been allowed to see them, which Amnesty International fears may be an attempt to conceal the fact that they may have been tortured.

The First District Court of the city of Toluca, Mexico state, reportedly certified on 25 October that Jacobo Silva Nogales had injuries on various parts of his body and that all four detainees claimed to have been tortured physically and psychologically. Amnesty International has received reports that Felicitas Padilla Nava's interrogators threatened to kill her children unless she gave them information.

All four are held at the *Cefereso de Almoloya*, Almoloya high security prison, Mexico state.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the past years Amnesty International has documented an increasing number of serious human rights violations by Mexico's security forces, including allegations of arbitrary detention, torture, "disappearances" and summary executions. The government claims that it is engaged in operations to control organized crime, drug-trafficking, and the emergence of armed opposition groups, including the ERPI and the *Ejército Revolucionario del Pueblo* (ERP), Revolutionary Army of the People.

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

- urging the authorities to guarantee the safety of Gloria Arenas Ajis, Felicitas Padilla Nava, Fernando Gatica Chino and Jacobo Silva Nogales, detainees in the Almoloya high security prison in Mexico state;
- calling on the authorities to promptly charge them with a recognisable criminal offence and bring them before a judge or release them;
- urging that their relatives and lawyers be allowed prompt access to them;
- calling for a prompt investigation into the allegations of torture, that the findings be made public, and that those responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Lic. Arturo Montiel
Gobernador del Estado de México
Palacio de Gobierno Lerdo Pte.300,
1er Piso Puerta 216, Col. Centro
Toluca 50000, Estado de México
MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador, Estado de México, México

Fax:+ 52 72 14 41 72

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

Jorge Reyes Santana
Procurador del Estado de México
Morelos 1300, Piso 6
Col. San Sebastián
Toluca 50090, Estado de México
MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador, Estado de México, México

Fax: + 52 72 14 9371

Salutation: Sr. Procurador / Dear Attorney

Lic. Abimael Durán Segundo
Director Penal, Cefereso de Almoloya,
Carretera Almoloya de Juárez, km 4.5,
Almoloya de Juárez, Estado de México,
MEXICO

Telegrams: Director, Cefereso Almoloya, Estado de México, México

Fax: + 52 7 136 00 68

Salutation: Sr. Director / Dear Director

COPIES TO:

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Instituto Literario No. 510 Esq. Vicente Villada
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MEXICO

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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 27 December 1999.