

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/42/97

UA 172/97

Fear for safety / Ill-treatment

13 June 1997

**MEXICO** Gloria Roque Bautista (f), peasant activist, human rights defender  
Rocío Mesino Mesino (f), peasant activist, human rights defender  
Eusebio Vázquez, peasant activist, human rights defender

---

On 11 June 1997 the offices of the *Organización Campesina de la Sierra del Sur (OCSS)*, Southern Sierra Peasant Organization, a peasant organization in Guerrero state, were raided by four unidentified armed individuals who ill-treated Gloria Roque Bautista while asking her for the home addresses of Rocío Mesino Mesino and Eusebio Vázquez, leaders of the OCSS.

Rocío Mesino Mesino and Eusebio Vázquez, among other members of the OCSS, have been the target of several recent death threats, reportedly by paramilitary groups, because of their activities on behalf of the indigenous and peasant population in the region and because of their outspoken criticism of the government.

OCSS members have told Amnesty International of their growing concern about the increasing human rights violations in the context of the second anniversary of the massacre of Aguas Blancas (see below), preparations for which appear to have contributed to a heightening of political tensions. OCSS members and relatives of the dead are organizing a workshop "*El pueblo clama justicia Aguas Blancas no se olvida*", "the people claim justice: Aguas Blancas will not be forgotten".

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Dozens of members of the OCSS and other peasant organizations in Guerrero have been killed in the context of disputes over peasants' rights since the creation of the OCSS in the Tepetixtla mountains in 1994.

Gerardo Hurtado Arias was shot and killed on 20 April 1997. He had previously received death threats for his activism and had been severely beaten by unidentified assailants (see UA 110/97, AMR 41/24/97, 22 April 1997). In a press conference after the killing, Rocío Mesino also denounced the threats against other OCSS leaders in Tepetixtla, including Eusebio Vázquez.

Rocío's father, Hilario Mesino Acosta, an OCSS leader, was tortured on two occasions, was threatened with the "disappearance" and death of Rocío and her sister Norma Mesino, also a leading peasant activist in Guerrero, as well as of other members of his family. Hilario Mesino remains in prison under unfounded charges of having links with the *Ejército Revolucionario Popular, EPR*, Popular Revolutionary Army, an armed opposition group. Amnesty International considers Hilario Mesino Acosta to be a prisoner of conscience (see EXTRA 196/96, AMR 41/84/96, 20 December 1996, EXTRA 103/96, AMR 41/34/96, 5 July 1996, and updates, AMR 41/37/96, 18 July and AMR 41/50/96, 29 August).

For more information on the massacre of 17 peasants on 28 June 1995 in Aguas Blancas in an ambush staged by Guerrero state police and government officials, see UA 159/95, AMR 41/15/95, 5 July 1995, and follow-ups AMR 41/16/95, 26 July 1995 and AMR 41/18/95, 17 August 1995. Many of those killed were OCSS members.

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

- urging an investigation into the raid on the OCSS offices and the ill-treatment of Gloria Roque Bautista;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee the physical safety of members of the OCSS, particularly Rocío Mesino Mesino and Eusebio Vázquez;
- calling for those responsible for the raid and for the threats and ill-treatment to be brought to justice;
- expressing deep alarm about the continuing human rights violations in the state of Guerrero and the apparent lack of effective action on the part of the authorities to stop them and to end the impunity currently enjoyed by most perpetrators.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuéllar  
Procurador General de la República  
Procuraduría General de la República  
Paseo de la Reforma y Violeta  
Col. Guerrero  
06300 México D.F., MEXICO

**Telegrams: Procurador Madrazo, México D.F., México**

**Faxes: (+52 5) 626 4419**

**Salutation: Sr. Procurador General / Dear Attorney General**

2) Attorney General of the State of Guerrero

Lic. Antonio Hernández Díaz  
Procurador del Estado de Guerrero  
Carretera Nacional México-Acapulco Km. 6.300  
CP 39.000, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, MEXICO.

**Telegrams: Sr. Procurador, Guerrero, México**

**Faxes: + 52 747 223 28 (if voice ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")**

**Salutation: Sr. Procurador/ Dear State Attorney**

3) Interim Governor of the State of Guerrero

Angel Heladio Aguirre Rivero  
Gobernador Interino del Estado de Guerrero  
Palacio de Gobierno  
Plaza Primer Congreso de Anahuac  
39000 Chilpancingo, Guerrero, México

**Telegrams: Gobernador Aguirre, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, México**

**Faxes: + 52 747 230 72**

**Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor**

**COPIES TO:**

1) Peasant organization

Sres.  
Unión de Organizaciones  
de la Sierra Sur (UOSS)  
Calle Zapata No. 17  
Col. Fraccionamiento 20 de Noviembre  
Chilpancingo, Guerrero, MEXICO

2) Newspaper

Sr. Editor  
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 30 July 1997.