

PUBLIC

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Death penalty

17 November 2003

MEXICO

Herón Varela Flores (m)

Herón Varela Flores was found guilty of murder by a military court and sentenced to death on 14 November. The President of the Republic has the power to commute the death sentence against Herón Varela Flores to 20 years in prison.

Herón Varela Flores was found guilty of the murder of Colonel Salvador Juárez Villa on 14 February at the barracks of the 20th Infantry Regiment in Ciudad Juarez, northern Mexico. He alleges that he acted in self-defence and the military tribunal denied him a fair trial. His lawyers will appeal the sentence.

While the death penalty has not been imposed for more than half a century in Mexico, it remains in the Constitution and the military penal code. Amnesty International is calling on the Mexican authorities to commute the death sentence and abolish the death penalty for all crimes.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- calling for the death penalty against Herón Varela Flores to be immediately commuted;
- urging the authorities to abolish the death penalty for all crimes, both in the Constitution and the Military Penal Code.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic

Lic. Vicente Fox Quesada

Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos

Residencia Oficial de "Lod Pinos"

Co. San Miguel Chapultepec

México D.F., C.P. 11850

México

Telegrams: Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, Mexico D.F., Mexico

Fax: +52 55 5277 2376

E-mail: webadmon@op.presidencia.gob.mx

Salutation: Señor Presidente/ Dear Mr. President

Minister of National Defence

Gral. Gerardo Clemente Ricardo Vega García

Secretario de la Defensa Nacional

Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional

Bulevar M. Ávila Camacho esqu. Industria Militar S/N

Col. Lomas de Sotelo

Delegación Miguel Hidalgo

México D.F., C.P. 11640

México

Telegrams: Secretario de la Defensa Nacional, Mexico D.F., Mexico

Fax: +52 55 53 95 29 35 (ask for "tono de fax")

Salutation: Señor Secretario / Dear Minister

Attorney General of Military Justice

Gral. Jaime Antonio López Portillo Robles Gil

Procurador General de Justicia Militar
Av. Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, Col.
Irrigación, Edificio 1, Campo Militar 1-J,
Predio Reforma
Mexico D.F.
Mexico

Telegram: Procurador General de Justicia Militar, Mexico D.F, Mexico

Fax: +525 55 626 59 18 (*ask for " tono de fax"*)

Salutation: Señor Procurador Militar/ Dear Military Prosecutor

COPIES TO:

Mexican Commission for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights

Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos A.C. (CMDPDH)

Tahuantepec 155, Col. Roma Sur, Mexico DF, CP 5584 2731, México

Email: cmdpdh@laneta.apc.org

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 29 December 2003.