

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/73/97

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 15 per Section.

UA 264/97

Fear for safety

11 August 1997

MEXICO Father Miguel Concha Malo, human rights activist and journalist

On 7 August 1997 Father Miguel Concha Malo, a well-known and respected human rights defender, received a threat by telephone.

The unidentified caller phoned his house at 11.30pm saying: "*Miguelito, no sabes quien te habla?*" ("Miguelito, don't you know who's talking to you?") to which he replied that he did not. The caller became more insistent: "*no sabes quien te habla, cabrón, hijo de la chingada, hijo de puta?...te va a costar caro*" ("don't you know who's talking to you, you bastard, you son of a bitch?...you'll pay for it"). Father Miguel again asked the caller to identify himself to which he received the following reply: "*eso no importa, ya verás los resultados*" ("that's not important, soon you'll see the results).

Father Miguel is honorary president of the *Centro de Derechos Humanos "Fray Francisco de Vitoria O.P."*, Human Rights Centre "Fray Francisco de Vitoria" and Vice-President of the *Academia Mexicana de Derechos Humanos*, Mexican Academy of Human Rights. Amnesty International believes that he is being targeted as a result of his involvement with these organizations and is concerned for his safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has recorded a long-term pattern of harassment by security forces and threats targeted at government critics and professional groups such as journalists, lawyers and academics. Since 1996, the level of harassment against human rights defenders has increased significantly.

The Mexican government, despite continually pledging to protect human rights defenders, has still not made this purported commitment a reality. Amnesty International remains seriously concerned at the level of impunity enjoyed by the majority of those responsible for committing human rights violations.

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

- expressing concern at the anonymous threat received by Father Miguel Concha Malo, apparently because of his work in the defence of human rights;
- calling for effective measures to ensure his safety;
- urging that full and impartial investigations be opened into this threat and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- expressing alarm at the increase in harassment towards human rights defenders in Mexico and the apparent impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators.

APPEALS TO:

1. Minister of the Interior:

Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor

Secretario de Gobernación

Secretaría de Gobernación

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Salutation: Sr. Secretario / Dear Minister

2. Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuéllar
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Salutation: Sr. Procurador de la República / Dear Attorney General

3) Attorney General of the Federal District

Lic. Lorenzo Manuel Thomas Torres
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Salutation: Sr. Procurador General del D.F./ Dear Attorney General

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2) Sr. Editor

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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 September 1997.