

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/110/97

UA 369/97

Fear for safety

26 November 1997

MEXICORogel del Rosal Valladares, political activist

There are serious concerns for the safety of Rogel del Rosal Valladares, a political activist, following his detention on 5 November 1997 by members of the police in the municipality of Xilitla, San Luis Potosí State.

Rogel del Rosal Valladares has been accused unfoundedly of kidnapping a public official. Amnesty International believes that he has been targeted for his political activism. He is a leading member of the *Coordinadora de Organizaciones Campesinas e Indígenas de la Huasteca Potosina*, Coordinator of Peasant and Indigenous Organizations of the Huasteca, in San Luis Potosí State. He is also a candidate for the state presidency of the *Partido de la Revolución Democrática* (PRD), Party of the Democratic Revolution, a legal opposition party.

Amnesty International fears that Rogel del Rosal Valladares may come to physical harm should he remain in detention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has documented an alarming number of human rights abuses against community and human rights activists over the last year. The mountainous Huasteca region of Mexico, which lies in the states of Veracruz, San Luis Potosí and Hidalgo is a very marginalised and predominantly indigenous region. Those voicing criticism of local and state government have frequently been harassed, intimidated, and in some cases tortured, reportedly by members of the security forces (see UA 259/97 AMR 41/69/97, 6 August 1997 and follow-up AMR 41/71/97 8 August 1997).

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

- seeking assurances that the physical safety of Rogel del Rosal Valladares be guaranteed whilst he remains in detention;
- urging that a prompt and fair trial be conducted into the charges made against Rogel del Rosal Valladares, and that he be released unconditionally if no evidence can be found to sustain the charges;
- expressing alarm at the increasing number of human rights violations against community and human rights activists in the Huasteca region of Mexico and urging the authorities to take measures to reduce such violations.

APPEALS TO:

1) Governor of the state of San Luis Potosí

Lic. Fernando Silva Nieto
Gobernador del Estado de San Luis Potosí
Palacio de Gobierno
San Luis Potosí
Estado de San Luis Potosí
MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador Silva, San Luis Potosí, México

Fax: + 52 481 22 707

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/ Dear Governor

2) Minister of Interior

Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor

Secretario de Gobernación
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucarelli 99, 1er piso,
Col Juarez, 06699 México DF, MEXICO
Telegrams: Secretario de Gobernación, México DF, México
Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350; + 525 535 9952
Salutation: Sr. Secretario / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

1) Centro de Derechos Humanos
"Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C.
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México D.F. MEXICO

2) 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 7 January 1997.