

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/116/97

19 December 1997

Further information on UA 122/96 (AMR 41/22/96, 9 May 1996) and follow-ups (AMR 41/63/96, 11 October 1996, and AMR 41/04/97, 31 January 1997) - Fear for safety

MEXICO Father Camilo Daniel Pérez, Catholic priest, human rights defender
Mary Pérez de Soto (f), parish secretary of the above

On 15 December 1997, the office of parish priest and human rights defender Father Camilo Daniel Pérez, in the neighbourhood of Anahuac, Chihuahua, Chihuahua State, was broken into. His files were searched and a number of his documents were ripped up and left strewn across the floor.

Since April 1996, Father Camilo and his secretary Mary Pérez de Soto have been subjected to continuous acts of intimidation in an attempt to force him to end his tireless defence of human rights in Mexico. Between October and November 1997, such acts of intimidation increased in frequency, and numerous death threats were received by fax and by telephone. On one occasion, the windows of Father Camilo's car were smashed.

The escalation in this campaign of intimidation has heightened Amnesty International's fears that Father Camilo and Mary Pérez could come to serious harm should the authorities continue to fail to carry out investigations to bring those responsible to justice.

Father Camilo Daniel Pérez is a highly respected human rights defender, and, as well as his duties as parish priest of Anahuac, is the president of the *Comision de Solidaridad y Defensa de los Derechos Humanos* (COSYDDHAC), Commission for Solidarity and Defence of Human Rights, a non-governmental organization.

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

- calling for immediate and thorough investigations into the recent break-in and all other recent threats and acts of intimidation against Father Camilo Daniel Pérez and Mary Pérez de Soto, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging that measures be taken to guarantee the physical safety of Father Camilo Daniel Pérez and Mary Pérez de Soto and to allow them to continue their work free from threats or intimidation;
- expressing alarm at the level of intimidation against Father Camilo Daniel Pérez and, in general, against all human rights defenders in Mexico.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of the Interior

Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor
Secretario de la Gobernación
Secretaría de la Gobernación
Bucareli 99, 1er piso

Col. Juárez, 06699 México DF, MÉXICO

Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México D.F., México

Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350

Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister

2) 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

3) Governor of the State of Chihuahua

Lic. C. Francisco Barrio Terrazas

Gobernador del Estado de Chihuahua

Palacio de Gobierno

Ciudad Juárez

Estado de Chihuahua, MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador, Barrio Terrazas, Chihuahua, México

Faxes: +52 14 29 34 64

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Human rights organization

Sres. Comisión de Solidaridad y Defensa de los Derechos Humanos AC.

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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 10 February 1998.