

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER THREATENED IN MEXICO

Human rights defender Blanca Mesina Navarez has received new threats related to her work documenting cases of torture in the municipality of Tijuana, northern Mexico. She is receiving no protection from the authorities, and her life could be in danger.

On 18 May **Blanca Mesina Navarez** was driving through Tijuana when a black pick-up truck with tinted windows and no number plates repeatedly shunted into her car as she was moving. In order to escape, she drove into a car park. The truck followed her, and a man dressed in black got out and approached her. He said: "This is the last time that I am going to warn you to stop filing complaints in Tijuana, there are many contacts and I don't think you want to lose someone close to you. If I don't kill you now it's to avoid a scandal around the elections and because your case is already known internationally" (es la última vez que te aviso que dejen de denunciar aquí en Tijuana, hay muchos contactos y creo que no quieres perder a algún familiar. Si no te mato en este momento, es para no provocar un escándalo por las elecciones y porque tu caso ya está a nivel internacional). The man then drove away.

Blanca Mesina had been receiving protection from the authorities after receiving a death threat in February. However, the protection measures stopped recently without explanation. She has filed a complaint regarding the 18 May threat with the state Attorney General's office. There has been no further news of threats against lawyer Silvia Vazquez Camancho. She and Blanca Mesina have been campaigning for justice for Blanca Mesina's father, Miguel Angel Mesina Lopez, who was tortured and killed by the military in Tijuana in March 2009.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling for Blanca Mesina Navarez and her family to receive all necessary protection immediately, in accordance with their wishes, following the death threat she received on 18 May;
- Calling on the authorities to investigate who was behind the threat, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- Reminding them of their obligation to ensure that human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate activities without fear of reprisal.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 05 JULY 2010 TO:

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Fernando Francisco Gómez-Mont Urueta
Secretario de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez,
Delegación Cuauhtémoc, México
D.F.,
06600, MÉXICO

Fax: +52 55 5093 3414

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

Governor of Baja California State

Lic. José Guadalupe Osuna Millan
Gobernador del Estado de Baja California
Edificio del Poder Ejecutivo 3er Piso,
Calzada Independencia No. 994,
Mexicali B.C. CP 21000
Fax: (686) 558-1178

Email: gobernador@baja.gob.mx

Salutation: Sr Gobernador/ Dear Governor

Attorney General of the Republic

Arturo Chávez Chávez
Procurador General de la República
Procuraduría General de la República

Av. Paseo de la Reforma nº 211-213,

Col. Cuauhtémoc, Del. Cuauhtémoc
México D.F., C.P. 06500, MEXICO

Fax: +52 55 5346 0908

Email: ofproc@pgr.gob.mx

Salutation: Dear Attorney General/ Señor Procurador General

COPIES TO: Mexican Commission for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights (*Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos*), Tehuantepec 142, Col. Roma Sur, 06760 México, DF (info@cmdpdh.org)

and to diplomatic representatives of Mexico accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 46/10 (AMR 41/016/2010). Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/016/2010/en

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER THREATENED IN MEXICO

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Miguel Angel Mesina López was one of 25 police officers detained and tortured by the military in Tijuana, Baja California state, in March 2009. Blanca Mesina has worked with human rights lawyer, Silvia Vázquez Camacho and the Mexican Commission for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights (Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, CMDPDH) to press for justice in her father's case, including appearing before the Inter American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in October 2009.

Human rights defenders in Mexico face threats, attacks, politically motivated criminal charges and imprisonment for leading protests or promoting respect for human rights. The government has agreed to provide protection measures to defenders at risk, but has yet to develop a mechanism for delivering effective and credible protection in many cases. In particular, the investigations into those behind threats and attacks rarely result in the prosecution of perpetrators; impunity is the general rule in these cases, leaving open the possibility of further attacks.

In November 2009 Amnesty International issued a report, *Mexico: New reports of human rights violations by the military*, AMR 41/058/2009 which documented several cases of arbitrary detention and torture at the military base in Tijuana, Baja California state and the efforts of victims, relatives and human rights defenders to file complaints. These cases are routinely investigated and tried by the military justice system, which does not guarantee an impartial and independent investigation, resulting in impunity for the vast majority of perpetrators.

Further information on UA: 46/10 Index: AMR 41/041/2010 Issue Date: 24 May 2010

