

URGENT ACTION

SIX MEN UNLAWFULLY DETAINED BY NAVY

At least six men have been unlawfully detained and subjected to enforced disappearance by Navy marines in northern Mexico. Despite compelling evidence, the Navy is continuing to deny involvement and the official investigation appears to have stalled.

Relatives have filed complaints with local and federal authorities that six men, José Fortino Martínez Martínez, José Cruz Díaz Camarillo, Martín Rico García, Usiel Gómez Rivera, Diego Omar Guillen Martínez and Joel Díaz Espinoza were detained without warrants in separate operations carried out by the Mexican Navy in Nuevo Laredo between 1 and 5 June. While they were detaining the men, marines questioned the men's families about possession of drugs and firearms. The complaints of unlawful detention and possible enforced disappearance were registered with the Federal Attorney General's Office (*Spanish*, PGR) and the National Human Rights Commission (*Spanish*, CNDH). The relatives also filed a habeas corpus petition with the federal courts. All local and federal authorities have denied involvement in the detention of the men, or knowledge of their whereabouts.

Compelling evidence from eyewitnesses, and photographs, demonstrate that the raids and detentions were carried out by uniformed marines using official vehicles. A relative of Jose Fortino Martínez Martínez followed the military vehicle carrying him to a nearby military base. This evidence has been made available to the authorities, but the Navy have denied responsibility and the PGR investigation has not established the men's whereabouts.

A local human rights organization, the Human Rights Committee in Nuevo Laredo (*Comité de Derechos Humanos, Nuevo Laredo*) has told Amnesty International that it has received another eight similar complaints, but relatives are too scared to file official complaints or register their cases.

Please write immediately in Spanish, English or your own language:

- Expressing concern that the six men (naming them) were subjected to enforced disappearance by the Navy in Nuevo Laredo between 1 and 5 June, and calling on the authorities to ensure their safety and give them immediate access to their families, legal representation of their choice and any medical attention they may require;
- Calling on them to order a prompt, impartial and exhaustive investigation by civilian federal authorities into their unlawful detention and enforced disappearances by members of the Mexican Navy, publish its findings and bring those responsible to justice;
- Calling on them to ensure that witnesses, their families and the men's relatives receive protection in line with their wishes, and ensure that all agencies cooperate with civilian investigations and measures to locate the men.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 10 AUGUST 2011 TO:

President of Mexico

Felipe Calderón Hinojosa
Residencia Oficial de los Pinos Casa
Miguel Alemán
Col. San Miguel Chapultepec
C.P. 11850, Distrito Federal, MEXICO
Fax: +52 55 5093 5321
Email:
felipe.calderon@presidencia.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear President Calderon

Attorney General of the Republic

Marisela Morales Ibañez
Procuradora General de Justicia de la
República, Av. Paseo de la reforma
211 – 213, Col. Cuahatemoc, Del.
Cuahatemoc, México D.F., MEXICO
Fax: +52 55 5346 0908 (keep trying)
Email: mmoralesi@pgr.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Secretary for the Navy

Almir. Mariano Saynez Mendoza
Secretaría de Marina
Eje 2 Oriente Tramo Heroica Escuela
Naval Militar No. 86,
Col. Los Cipreses, Del. Coyoacán,
México D.F., C.P. 04830, MEXICO
Email: srio@semar.gob.mx
Fax: +52 55 5679 6411

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 177/11. Further information:
www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/033/2011/en

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

SIX MORE MEN UNLAWFULLY DETAINED BY NAVY

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since 2007, violence linked to organized crime has spiralled in Mexico with more than 40,000 killings. In 2010 there were more than 3,000 killings in Ciudad Juárez, one of the worst affected cities. President Calderón's administration has attempted to combat the drug cartels by deploying thousands of federal police and over 50,000 army and navy personnel in the worst affected areas, particularly in many of the cities on Mexico's northern border such as Nuevo Laredo. Active or retired military officials hold key positions in civilian public security functions in many parts of the country. The Navy has been playing an increasing role in policing operations to target criminal suspects and gangs. Despite repeated reports of serious human rights violations, such as unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, and torture, by security forces, these cases are almost invariably dealt with by military investigators and courts often resulting in impunity for perpetrators. Victims are routinely left without information or recourse to justice as civilian police and judicial authorities refused to conduct full and effective investigations.

Amnesty International has written to President Calderon asking him to intervene directly to establish the men's whereabouts and bring those responsible to justice.

Press release: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/mexican-president-urged-investigate-navy-%E2%80%98disappearances%E2%80%99-2011-06-28>

Letter sent To President Felipe Calderón (in Spanish only): <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/043/2011/es>

Names: José Fortino Martínez Martínez, José Cruz Díaz Camarillo, Martín Rico García, Usiel Gómez Rivera, Diego Omar Guillen Martínez, Joel Díaz Espinoza
Gender m

Further information on UA: 177/11 Index: AMR 41/044/2011 Issue Date: 30 June 2011

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

