



**amnesty
international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ
United Kingdom

**URGENT
ACTION**

To Sections

The following information was telexed/faxed to certain Urgent Action coordinators and was not printed for general distribution to the UA network because only a limited number of appeals was needed, very quickly. This printed version is being sent to sections in the weekly mailing for information only and therefore has an AI index number.

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: AMR 41/08/90
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Death threats

20 August 1990

Mexico: Julio MACOSSAY VALLADO, lawyer

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Amnesty International is concerned at reports that on 8 August 1990, Julio Macossay, a human rights lawyer and legal adviser to workers in poultry farms in Mérida, in the state of Yucatán, was attacked and threatened with death. Reports indicate that two individuals approached him from behind in the street and threatened to kill him if he did not leave Yucatán. He was then hit in the abdomen with a piece of lead piping.

Julio Macossay spent nearly three months in prison earlier this year. He had been providing legal advice to workers at local farms in their efforts to improve working conditions and set up an independent trade union. Accused of various offences, including attacks on transportation and issuing threats, which he vigorously denied, he spent 50 days on hunger strike. While in detention, he reportedly received threats, warning him to abandon his activities. He was eventually released on 30 May for lack of evidence.

In the light of recent human rights violations against human rights advocates, including the apparent extrajudicial killing of lawyer Norma Corona Sapién in May 1990, and the death threats issued against Jorge Casteñeda Gutmán and Víctor Clark Alfaro, the following month, Amnesty International believes that a thorough investigation into the attack and threats on Julio Macossay should be conducted immediately and those responsible brought to justice.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the reported attack and death threats against Julio Macossay on 8 August 1990;
- urging that an investigation into these allegations be conducted immediately and that those responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior:

Lic. Fernando Gutiérrez Barrios
Secretario de Gobernación
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso
06699 México DF
México

Government human rights
commission:

Dr. Jorge Carpizo
Presidente
Comisión Nacional de Derechos
Humanos
Constituyentes 161, septimo piso
Col. San Miguel Chapultepec
11850 México DF, México

Governor of the state of Yucatán:

Lic. Víctor Manzanilla Schaffer
Gobernador del Estado de Yucatán
Casa de Gobierno
Mérida
Estado de Yucatán
México

Attorney General of the state
of Yucatán:

Sr. Procurador de Justicia del
Estado de Yucatán
Procuraduría de Justicia
Mérida
Estado de Yucatán
México

COPIES TO:

Sres.
Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y
Promoción de los Derechos Humanos
Apartado Postal 5-170
CP 06500 México DF
México

Sres.
Liga Mexicana por la Defensa
de los Derechos Humanos
C/ Guadalajara No. 68
Col. Roma
CP 06700 México DF, México

and to diplomatic representatives of Mexico in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International
Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1
October 1990.