

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/08/97

13 February 1997

Further information (3) on UA 255/96 (AMR 41/70/96, 5 November 1996) and follow-ups: AMR 41/71/96, 6 November 1996, and AMR 41/73/96, 12 November 1996 - Fear for safety / Death threats / Possible "disappearances" / Ill-treatment

MEXICOMembers of CONPAZ, human rights organization

On 9 January 1997 an attack took place on the offices of *Coordinación de Organismos No Gubernamentales por la Paz* (CONPAZ), Coordination of Non-Governmental Organizations for Peace, in San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas. Unidentified individuals broke into the offices and tried to set them on fire.

The attack is the latest in a series of threats and attacks against CONPAZ since November 1996, apparently due to their active role in the defence of human rights, particularly in documenting and making public denunciations of human rights violations in Chiapas and its outspoken criticism of governmental inaction to prevent such violations in the region.

Concern for the safety of CONPAZ members is heightened by the government's failure to bring the perpetrators to justice, despite six complaints filed with local authorities about previous attacks.

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

- expressing grave concern about the latest attack by unidentified individuals on the CONPAZ offices in San Cristóbal de las Casas on 9 January 1997;
- calling for immediate and effective measures to prevent further violence against members and property of CONPAZ, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- asking what measures, if any, have been taken by the authorities in the last few months in order to prevent future attacks and protect the lives of CONPAZ members;
- asking to be kept informed of the progress of any investigations being carried out into the attacks.

Some members of the UA network have received letters from CONPAZ members thanking them for their appeals in the international campaign on their behalf.

APPEALS TO:

1) Governor of the State of Chiapas

Lic. Julio César Ruiz Ferro
Gobernador del estado de Chiapas
Palacio de Gobierno
Av. Central y Primera Oriente
Colonia Centro, 29009 Tuxtla Gutiérrez
Estado de Chiapas, MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador Ruiz Ferro, Chiapas, México

Fax: +52 961 20917 (if voice, ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor)

Salutation; Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

2) Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar
Procuraduría General de la República

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Paseo de la Reforma y Violeta
Col. Guerrero
06300 México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: Sr. Procurador de la República, México D.F.

Fax: +52 5 626 4419

Salutation: Sr. Procurador de la República / Dear Attorney General

COPIES TO:

Sres. CONPAZ

Apartado Postal 41
San Cristóbal de las Casas
29200 chiapas
MEXICO

Fax: +52 967 83868

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 27 March 1997.