

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/08/98

UA 37/98 Fear for safety/ Possible Extrajudicial execution

6 February 1998

MEXICO Fear for safety: Gustavo Zarate}
Celso Cruz}
Mariano López}
Inar Berneli Domínguez} - ADEPECH
Jorge Motolina} activists
Rosendo Hernández}
Felipe López}
and other members of ADEPECH

Possible Extrajudicial execution: Rubicel Ruiz Gamboa

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of the above members of the *Asamblea Estatal Democrática del Pueblo Chiapaneco* (ADEPECH), Democratic State Assembly of the People of Chiapas, made up of various peasant organisations. ADEPECH members fear for their lives following numerous death threats received by the organization and the apparent extrajudicial execution of its leader, Rubicel Ruiz Gamboa.

On 28 January 1998, Rubicel Ruiz Gamboa was gunned down outside his house by a group of unknown individuals in the city of Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas State.

Since the beginning of October 1997, members of ADEPECH have received frequent death threats, reportedly by members of *Paz y Justicia*, Peace and Justice, a paramilitary organisation allegedly linked to the authorities. A few days after Rubicel Ruiz Gamboa was killed, ADEPECH reported that its offices had been raided.

One of the seven peasant activists mentioned above, Felipe López, has been forced to flee Chiapas as a result of the intimidation that he has been subjected to.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the past four years Amnesty International has documented a systematic pattern of human rights violations against peasant and indigenous activists by members of the security forces as well as paramilitary groups in the states of Chiapas, Guerrero and Oaxaca. Many cases have occurred in the context of counter-insurgency operations in which security forces have attempted to link peaceful activists to the armed opposition groups *Ejército Popular Revolucionario* (EPR), Popular Revolutionary Army, based in Guerrero and Oaxaca States, and the *Ejército Zapatista de la Liberación Nacional* (EZLN), Zapatista Army of National Liberation, based in Chiapas State.

The incidents reported above are the last in a long chain of human rights violations attributed to *Paz y Justicia*, including the massacre of 45 Tzotzil Indians in Acteal, Chiapas (see UA 409/97, AMR 41/117/97, 23 December 1997 and follow-ups AMR 41/01/98, 2 January 1998, and AMR 41/03/98, 14 January 1998).

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

- urging that immediate measures be taken to guarantee the safety of all members of the *Asamblea Estatal Democrática del Pueblo Chiapaneco* (ADEPECH), Democratic State Assembly of the People of Chiapas, following the apparent extrajudicial execution of Rubicel Ruiz Gamboa, an ADEPECH leader, on 28 January 1998 in

Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas (mention some or all of the names of those who fear for their lives);

- urging a prompt, impartial and effective investigation into the alleged extrajudicial execution of Rubicel Ruiz Gamboa, that the findings be made public, and that those responsible to be brought to justice;
- requesting an investigation into the activities of paramilitary groups operating in Chiapas, Guerrero and Oaxaca, and to bring those responsible for human rights violations to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Interior

Lic. Francisco Labastida Ochoa

Secretario de Gobernación, Secretaría de Gobernación

Bucarelli 99, 1er piso, Col Juarez, 06699 México DF, MEXICO

Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México DF, México

Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350

Salutation: Sr. Secretario / Dear Minister

2) Governor of the State of Chiapas

Lic. Roberto Albores Guillén

Gobernador del Estado de Chiapas

Palacio de Gobierno, Av. Central y Primera Oriente

Colonia Centro, 29009 Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Estado de Chiapas, MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador Albores Guillén, Chiapas, México

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

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

3) Attorney General of Chiapas

Lic. Jorge Hernández Aguilar

Procurador General de Chiapas

Procuraduría General de Chiapas

Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Estado de Chiapas, MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador del Estado, Chiapas, México

Faxes: + 52 961 65376 (if voice, ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Procurador / Dear State Attorney General

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organizations

Comisión de Derechos Humanos "Fray Bartolomé de las Casas",

Francisco León 46, Barrio de Santa Lucía

San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas C.P. 29250, México

Congressional Human Rights Commission

Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Congreso, Edificio del Congreso de la Nación,

Avenida del Congreso, Edificio A, 2 nivel, Mexico D.F., MEXICO

Faxes: + 525 542 3247

and to diplomatic representatives of México accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals 20 March 1998.