

PUBLIC

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Fear for safety

20 March 2000

MEXICO

Maximino Marcial Jaimes (25 years old) and other individuals and communities linked to the Peasant Farmer Environmentalist Organisation of the mountains of Petatlán and Coyuca de Catatlán

Maximino Marcial Jaimes, a member of a peasant farmer environmentalist organisation, was reportedly abducted on 13 March 2000. Amnesty International is concerned for his safety.

Maximino Marcial Jaimes is from the community of Pizotla, municipality of Ajuchitlán del Progreso, Guerrero state, and is a member of the Peasant Farmer Environmentalist Organisation of the mountains of Petatlán and Coyuca de Catatlán, *Organización de Campesinos Ecologistas de la Sierra de Petatlán y Coyuca de Catatlán*. He was on the Coyuca de Catatlán bridge when some men approached him, threatened him with a pistol, forced him into a truck and drove off.

According to reports, those responsible are thought to be members of “paramilitary groups” or “armed civilians” linked to local economic interests and political bosses (*caciques*), which themselves have, according to reports in recent years, been linked to the military in the region.

On 16 March Maximino Marcial Jaime’s relatives visited various police stations, the Public Ministry in Guerrero (*Ministerio Público de la Procuraduría de Justicia de Guerrero*), the 40th Infantry Battalion army base and the state offices of the Attorney General of the Republic (*Procuraduría General de la República*) seeking information on his whereabouts but without success.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 2 May 1999, soldiers from the 40th Infantry Battalion entered Pizotla. They shot and killed Salomé Sánchez Ortíz and arbitrarily detained Rodolfo Montiel Flores and Teodoro Cabrera García, who were reportedly held in incommunicado detention for six days and tortured (see UA 144/99, AMR 41/12/99, 25 June 1999 and follow up AMR 41/18/99, 28 July 1999). Both were also members of the Peasant Farmer Environmentalist Organisation of the mountains of Petatlán and Coyuca de Catatlán. Other members of this organisation and communities associated with it have received threats on a number of occasions in recent years.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Maximino Marcial Jaimes, reportedly abducted on 13 March 2000 on the Coyuca de Catatlán bridge, allegedly by “paramilitary groups” or “armed civilians”;
- urging the authorities to open a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into the reported abduction and whereabouts of Maximino Marcial Jaimes;
- in the light of the abduction of Maximino Marcial Jaimes, calling on the authorities to guarantee the safety of members of the Peasant Farmer Environmentalist Organisation of the mountains of Petatlán and Coyuca de Catatlán and inhabitants of Pizotla, municipality of Ajuchitlán del Progreso, Guerrero state.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of Guerrero State

Lic. René Juárez Cisneros

Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero

Palacio de Gobierno, Plaza Central, Primer Congreso de Anahuac

Chilpancingo 39000, Estado de

Guerrero, MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador Estado, Guerrero, México
Faxes: +52 747 24596 (if voice, ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")
Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar
Señor Procurador General de Justicia de la República
Procuraduría General de Justicia de la República
Paseo de la Reforma y Violeta, Col. Guerrero
06300 México D.F., MEXICO
Telegrams: Procuraduría General de la República, México DF, México
Faxes: +52 5 346 0906
Salutation: Sr. Procurador / Dear Attorney General

National Commission for Human Rights

Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández
Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDH)
Av. Chapultepec N° 49, 1er Piso, Centro, Cuauhtémoc,
06040 México, DF, MEXICO
Telegrams: CNDH, México DF, México
Faxes: +52 5 681 8490
Salutation: Estimado Dr. Soberanes / Dear Dr. Soberanes

COPIES TO:

Human Rights organization
Centro de Derechos Humanos "Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez"
Serapio Rendón 57-B, Col. San Rafael
México DF, CP 06470 MEXICO

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 1 May 2000