

UA 67/00

Fea.

MEXICO Isaías MARTINEZ GERVACIO

Human rights defender Isaías Martínez Gervacio has reportedly been followed by an armed man. He has reported this to the Preventative Police (*Policía Preventiva*), but they have apparently done nothing to protect him. Amnesty International is concerned for his safety.

Isaías Martínez is an active member of the *Asociación de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos y Víctimas de Violaciones a los Derechos Humanos* (AFADEM), Association of Relatives of the "Disappeared" and of Human Rights Victims. On 2 March 2000 he was followed by an armed man in civilian clothes in his home town, Atoyac de Alvarez, in the southern state of Guerrero.

On the same day, a man who claimed to be from the Public Ministry in Atoyac de Alvarez, but did not show an official identification card, called at Isaías Martínez's home and told one of his children that he "wanted to get to know the old bastard" ("*quería conocer al viejo cabrón*"). When Isaías Martínez went to the Public Ministry offices to ask why the man had come, the head (*titular*) of the offices said he had not sent anyone to visit him.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International regularly receives reports of human rights defenders being harassed and intimidated in Mexico. The organization has appealed to the authorities to implement international human rights standards designed to protect and encourage the legitimate work of these activists.

Over the past 30 years Amnesty International has also received reports of "disappearances", with hundreds reported in the 1970s and early 1980s. The number of complaints fell markedly in the late 80s and early 90s, rose between 1994 and 1996, and have since fallen again (see *Mexico: "Disappearances" - a black hole in the protection of human rights*, AI Index AMR 41/05/98, May 1998, and *Amnesty International Report 1999*). Although two bills to outlaw "disappearances" having been submitted to Mexico's Congress, one of them by the governmental National Human Rights Commission, *Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos*, in 1997, no such legislation has been approved.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Isaías Martínez Gervacio, a human rights activist working with AFADEM, a non-governmental organization working with the relatives of the "disappeared" in Atoyac de Alvarez, Guerrero state;
- stating that on 2 March 2000 he has was reportedly followed in Atoyac de Alvarez by an armed man in civilian clothing, and that the same day, while he was out, a man went to his home and told his children that he "wanted to get to know the old bastard" ("*quería conocer al viejo cabrón*");
- calling on the authorities to take the necessary measures to guarantee his safety.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of Guerrero State

Lic. René Juárez Cisneros

Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero

Palacio de Gobierno, Plaza Central, Primer Congreso de Anahuac

39000 Chilpancingo, 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
AFADEM
Apartado Postal 71-172
México DF
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 4 May 2000.