EXTERNAL AI Index: AMR 41/16/97

27 March 1997

Further information (1) on UA 78/97 (AMR 41/13/97, 20 March 1997) - Possible extrajudicial execution/Fear of torture

MEXICO killed: Fernando González Pérez , aged 22

Carmen González Gómez (f), aged 25

Virgilio Sánchez Gómez, aged 17 (note correct name)

Miguel Gómez Hernández, aged 80

arrested: Mariano Pérez González

Abraham López González Pascual Méndez González Mariano González Díaz Pedro González Sánchez

and 20 other indegenous community members

Amnesty International continues to fear for the physical well-being of members of the indigenous community of San Pedro Nixtalucum, arrested on 14 March 1997, who are reportedly being tortured and denied proper medical treatment while in detention.

Mariano Pérez González, Abraham López González and Pascual Méndez González are all suffering from severe burns received after being detained by members of the state police. Mariano González Díaz has a gunshot wound in the leg. According to reports, many of the other prisoners also have visible bruising on their arms and faces as a result of torture. None have received medical attention so far.

Twenty-four of those arrested have been formally charged, following the police operation on 14 March in San Pedro Nixtalucum, despite the apparent lack of evidence other than their forced confessions to substantiate such charges. Thirteen face charges of murder and the others of abduction, causing damage to property and criminal association. Among those imprisoned are two minors.

Lawyers for the defence, including human rights activists, have seriously criticised the judicial proceedings, which they claim have denied the defendants the right to a fair trial. All the defendants were reportedly forced to sign blank statements and were not allowed prompt access to their lawyers.

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

- calling for a prompt and full investigation into the killing of Fernando González Pérez, Carmen González Gómez, Virgilio Sánchez Gómez and Miguel Gómez Hernández, during the police operation in San Pedro Nixtalucum on 14 March 1997, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- expressing grave concern over the reported torture and ill-treatment of those detained during the same police operation;
- expressing concern at allegations that detainees were forced to make confessions under duress;
- urging that all 24 detainees, and any other persons subsequently detained, be given immediate medical attention and access to doctors, lawyers and relatives;
- expressing deep alarm about continuing human rights violations in the state of Chiapas, and at the apparent lack of effective action on the part of the

authorities to stop them and to end the impunity currently enjoyed by most perpetrators

## APPEALS TO:

## 1) Minister of Interior

Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor Secretario de Gobernación Secretaría de Gobernación Bucarelli 99, 1er piso,

Col Juarez, 06699 México DF, MEXICO

Telegrams: Secretario de Gobernación, México DF, México

Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350

Salutation: Sr. Secretario / Dear Minister

# 2) 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

## 3) Attorney General of the State of Chiapas

Lic. Jorge Hernández Aguilar

Procuraduría General de Chiapas, MEXICO

Telegrams: Sr. Procurador de Chiapas, México DF, México

Fax: +52 9 616 5376 (if voice, ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Procurador de Chiapas/ Dear Attorney General

#### COPIES TO:

## 1) Human rights organizations

Sres. Centro de Derechos Humanos San Bartolomé de las Casas Apartado Postal 178 San Cristóbal de las Casas 29250 Chiapas, MEXICO

Fax: +52 967 835 51

#### 2) Daily newspaper

Sr. Editor
La Jornada
Balderas 68
06050 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 8 May 1997.