

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Arbitrary killing/Fear for safety

9 September 1994

MEXICO Roberto HERNÁNDEZ PANIAGUA, killed
Enrique MURIAS, arbitrarily detained
 both leaders of the PRD

Roberto Hernández Paniagua, a schoolteacher and municipal leader of the *Partido de la Revolución Democrática*, PRD, Democratic Revolution Party, was shot dead on 6 September 1994, in the town of Jaltenango de la Paz, state of Chiapas, as he was cycling to work. The same day, another PRD municipal leader, Enrique Murias, was detained in the town of Mapastepec, also in the state of Chiapas, reportedly by members of the federal judicial police. He was released later the same day. Amnesty International fears for his safety.

The killing of Roberto Hernández follows a series of reported acts of harassment against members of the opposition Democratic Revolution Party since the general elections of 21 August 1994. Elections for the governor of Chiapas also took place on this date.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In Mexico city, student and human rights activists have also been harassed and beaten by unidentified men since the elections. In one such incident, student leader David Lozano was abducted and tortured by four armed men believed to be from the security forces on 2 September 1994. He was released on 3 September (see UA 325/94, AMR 41/16/94, 7 September 1994).

According to international electoral observers, there were fewer reports of vote rigging in these elections than in previous occasions, although the PRD claimed there was widespread fraud. Ernesto Zedillo, candidate for the *Partido Institucional Revolucionario*, PRI, Revolutionary Institutional Party, was elected president of the republic and is expected to take office in December 1994. In Chiapas, the PRI's candidate was also declared the winner. Since then, dozens of PRD supporters in Chiapas have blocked roads and taken over government buildings in protest of the results.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters either in Spanish, English or in your own language:

- expressing serious concern at the killing of Roberto Hernández Paniagua, leader of the PRD in Chiapas in the context of harassment against members of the opposition;
- requesting that an immediate and impartial investigation be opened into this killing and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- expressing concern about the arbitrary detention of Enrique Murias, leader of the PRD in Chiapas, presumably by members of the federal judicial police and asking that an investigation be opened into this incident;
- urging immediate measures to ensure the physical integrity of all leaders and members of the PRD in Chiapas and elsewhere in Mexico, particularly those who have been harassed since the elections, and to guarantee their right to continue carrying out their activities without fear of persecution.

APPEALS TO

1) President of the Republic

Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio Nacional
 06067 México D.F., Mexico

Telegrams: Presidente Salinas, México D.F., Mexico

Telexes: 170937 sppnme; 1774468 sppnme

Faxes: +52 5 271 1764

Salutation: Sr. Presidente/Dear President

2) Interior Minister

Dr Jorge Carpizo McGregor
 Secretario de Gobernación
 Secretaría de Gobernación
 Bucarelli 99, 1er piso
 Colonia Juárez
 06669 México DF, MEXICO

Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México D.F., Mexico

Telexes: 1774376, 1774375

Faxes: +52 5 703 2171

Salutation: Sr. Secretario de Gobernación/Dear Minister

3) Attorney General's Office

Lic Humberto Benítez Treviño
 Procurador General de la República
 Procuraduría General de la República
 Paseo de la Reforma y Violeta
 Colonia Guerrero
 06300 Mexico DF, MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador General, Mexico D.F., Mexico

Telexes: 1777572

Faxes: +52 5 626 4430

Salutation: Sr Procurador General/Dear Attorney General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:National Human Rights Commission

Sres.
 Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos
 Periférico Sur 3469
 Col San Jerónimo Lídice
 10200 México DF, Mexico

Human rights organization

Sres.
 CONPAZ - Coordinación de organismos
 no gubernamentales por la paz en Chiapas
 Chapa de Corzo 19
 El Cerrillo, San Cristóbal de las Casas
 29220 Chiapas, Mexico

Daily newspaper

Sr. Editor
 El Financiero
 Lago Bolseno No. 176
 Col Anáhuac

11590 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 20 October 1994.