

UA 90/00

Fea.

MEXICO David MOLINA FRANCISCO

Opposition political activist David Molina Francisco was reportedly abducted yesterday by armed men, who held up his car in Acapulco, capital of the southern state of Guerrero. Amnesty International fears his life is in danger.

He was apparently on his way to a petrol station with his 10-year-old son when three vehicles forced his car to stop. Some 20 heavily armed men in ski masks (*pasamontañas*) got out, beat him around the head, forced him into one of their vehicles and drove off, leaving son behind.

Public Ministry officials (*agentes*) in Acapulco denied having David Molina Francisco in custody when members of his family went to their offices.

David Molina Francisco is a leading member of the *Partido de la Revolución Democrática* (PRD), Party of the Democratic Revolution. Amnesty International has long documented attacks on PRD members, especially in the southern states of Chiapas, Guerrero and Oaxaca, where they have been accused of being supporters or sympathisers of armed opposition groups active in the region. Some 215 PRD members were killed in Guerrero state alone between 1988 and 1999, according to Amnesty International's information.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the years there have been hundreds of reports of politically motivated attacks, ranging from intimidation to abductions and killings, against activists working for the PRD and Mexico's two other main political parties, the *Partido de Acción Nacional* (PAN), National Action Party, and the *Partido Revolucionario Institucional* (PRI), Institutional Revolutionary Party. These attacks are almost always directed at activists working for their state or municipal party branches, but sometimes against well-known national figures.

After visiting Mexico, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, concluded, in a November 1999 report, that: "Mexico is passing through a difficult period as the country's progress is being marred by political polarization and violence. Urgent preventive steps need to be taken to defuse tensions and bring down the level of violence in order to protect the security and lives of innocent civilians who suffer at the hands of the police, the armed forces, the paramilitary and armed opposition groups".

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

- expressing concern at the reported abduction of David MOLINA FRANCISCO, a leading member of the *Partido de la Revolución Democrática* (PRD), Party of the Democratic Revolution, on 19 April 2000 in Acapulco, Guerrero state;
- calling on the authorities to carry out a prompt, full and independent investigation into the abduction, make the findings public, and bring those responsible to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Please note that fax numbers can be difficult to obtain, and fax machines are often switched off outside office hours. If you do not get through, please try again later. If a voice answers, say, "el tono de fax, por favor."

Governor of Guerrero state

Lic. René Juárez Cisneros
Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero
Palacio de Gobierno, segundo piso
Plaza Central, Primer Congreso de Anahuac
Colonia Centro, Chilpancingo 39000
Estado de Guerrero
MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador, Guerrero, México

Faxes: + 52 747 28319

Salutation: Señor Gobernador / Dear Governor

Attorney of Guerrero state

Lic. Carlos Javier Vega Mimije
Procurador del Estado de Guerrero
Carretera México-Acapulco Km. 6300
Chilpancingo 39000
Estado de Guerrero
MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador, Guerrero, México

Faxes: + 52 747 22328

Salutation: Señor Procurador / Dear Attorney

COPIES TO:

Local newspaper

El Sur
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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 June 2000.