

PUBLIC

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19 May 2006

UA 143/06 Fear for safety

MEXICO Silvia Madrigal Molina (f)
Her daughter

Silvia Madrigal and her daughter have been harassed and threatened by men who allegedly raped the daughter. Amnesty International believes their lives may be in danger.

Silvia Madrigal's daughter, who was 16 at the time, was reportedly drugged and raped by a group of four teenage boys at a party in Chihuahua City in May 2003. Her mother filed a complaint with the State Prosecutor's Office in Chihuahua (*Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado*), which transferred the case to the Juvenile Courts (*Consejo del Tribunal para Menores*). The Juvenile Courts, which are part of the public security system rather than the judiciary, sentenced the boys to a period of rehabilitation in a juvenile detention centre (*Centro de Rehabilitación*). However, the four young men were subsequently released into custody of their parents (*arraigo familiar*), who were obliged to keep them under supervision.

In March 2006, the Juvenile Courts notified Silvia Madrigal Molina that they had decided to clear the four boys of all charges. Silvia Madrigal Molina filed an injunction to challenge this decision. In April, the Juvenile Court overturned the decision and sentenced the four to two months in a juvenile detention centre, even though by now they were no longer minors. They have not yet been detained.

On 13 May Silvia Madrigal's daughter was reportedly approached by two of the young men who had allegedly raped her, at the entrance of an amusement centre (*centro de diversiones*), while she was out walking with a group of friends. They told Silvia Madrigal's daughter that they knew her mother was trying to put them in jail, and that she and her mother should be very careful, because they do not want to go to jail.

In March, Silvia Madrigal had been followed by a car in Chihuahua City while she was driving home. She believes the people in the car were linked to the families of the men who raped her daughter. Silvia Madrigal has filed a formal complaint about the threats and intimidation with the State Human Rights Commission and the State Public Security Secretariat (*Secretaría de Seguridad Pública*).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Silvia Madrigal, who have been threatened and harassed;
- calling on the authorities to guarantee their safety, and to ensure that they receive protection in line with their own wishes;
- calling for a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into the threat they have received, for the findings to be published and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- calling on the authorities to carry out a serious and impartial investigation into the alleged rape of Silvia Madrigal's daughter, and for those responsible to face charges and sentences proportionate to the severity of the crime.

APPEALS TO:

Governor of the State of Chihuahua
José Reyes Baeza

Palacio de Gobierno, Primer piso,
C. Aldama No.901, Col. Centro,
Chihuahua, 31000, Mexico.

Fax: +52 614 429 3464 (if someone answers say "tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation:

Attorney General of the State of Chihuahua

Patricia González Rodríguez
Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado de Chihuahua
Vicente Guerrero 616,
Col. Centro
Chihuahua 31000, Mexico

Fax: +52 614 415 0314

+52 614 429 3387

+52 614 429 3389 (if someone answers say "tono de fax por favor")

Salutation: Dear Attorney General / Señora Procuradora

Head of State Public Security

Lic. José Raul Grajeda Domínguez
Secretario de Seguridad Pública de Chihuahua
Complejo Estatal de Seguridad Pública km 3.5,
Carretera Chihuahua - Aldama
Chihuahua, Mexico

Fax: +52 614 429 7303 (if someone answers, say "extension para tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Dear Minister/Sr. Secretario

Director of Human Rights – Federal Interior Ministry

Maestro Ricardo Sepúlveda, Secretaría de Gobernación
Reforma 99, PISO 21, PH, Colonia Tabacalera,
C.P. 06030, Mexico D.F. Mexico

Fax: +52 55 5128 0234 (if someone answers, ask "tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Estimado Maestro/Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

Women's Human Rights Organization

Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres
Av. Juárez 4107, Col. Centro, Chihuahua, 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 30 June 2006.