

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/30/97

8 May 1997

**Further information on UA 255/96 (AMR 41/70/96, 5 November 1996) and follow-ups (AMR 41/71/96, 6 November, AMR 41/73/96, 12 November, and AMR 41/08/97, 13 February 1997) - Fear for safety / Death threats / Possible "disappearances" / Ill-treatment**

**MEXICOMembers of CONPAZ, human rights organization  
Dr Gerardo González Figueroa and his family**

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On the morning of 7 May 1997, Dr Gerardo González Figueroa, chairperson of the *Coordinación de Organismos No Gubernamentales por la Paz* (CONPAZ), Coordination of Non-Governmental Organizations for Peace, based in San Cristóbal de las Casas, state of Chiapas, received a series of anonymous death threats by phone. The threats came a few minutes after a statement by CONPAZ against the expulsion of international human rights monitors had been read in a radio news program.

During the first call, a man spoke to one of Gerardo González's daughters and asked for her father. When he answered, the caller said "what are you going to do when something happens to the one who answered the phone?" (*¿Qué va a hacer cuando le pase algo a la que me contestó?*), meaning his daughter. The caller continued: "You thought it was a joke, now you will see when something happens to your daughters, you'll see we're being serious" ("*Creyeron que era broma, ahora van a ver cuando a sus hijas les pase algo, ya van a ver es en serio*"). Gerardo González did not answer and hung up. Two minutes later, the phone rang again and the caller said "Let's see if the bloody foreigners will defend your daughters when something happens to them" ("*A ver si los pinches extranjeros van a defender a tus hijas cuando les pase algo*"). Two minutes after that, there was another call, which Gerardo González was able to record on tape. The caller said: "What's more important: your children's safety or your bloody principles" ("*Que será más importante: la seguridad de tus hijos o tus ideales tan pendejos*").

Dr Gerardo González believes that the caller is the same person who threatened him by phone in several occasions during November 1996 (see updates AMR 41/71/96, 6 November 1996 and AMR 41/73/96, 12 November)

A number of international human rights monitors have had their visas withdrawn by Mexican immigration officials and expelled or asked to leave Mexico in the last three weeks (See EXTRA 54/97, AMR 41/20/97, 18 April 1997, and follow ups AMR 41/21/97, 21 April; AMR 41/23/97, 22 April; and AMR 41/27/97, 25 April).

National and international human rights non-governmental organizations have energetically condemned the expulsion of international human rights monitors by the Mexican authorities (see also News Service 70/97, AMR 41/22/97, 21 April 1997).

As far as Amnesty International is aware, no one has been brought to justice for any of the previous attacks and harassment against members of CONPAZ.

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

- expressing concern at the anonymous death threats received by Dr Gerardo González Figueroa against him and his family, following a statement by CONPAZ on a radio program on 7 May 1997;

- calling for effective and immediate measures to ensure their safety and to stop any further threats and attacks against them and other members of CONPAZ;
- urging that full and impartial investigations be opened into these death threats and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- requesting to be kept informed about measures adopted to prevent future attacks, and about the investigations carried out into these and previous incidents.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) 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**

2) Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuéllar  
Procurador General de la República  
Procuraduría General de la República  
Paseo de la Reforma y Violeta  
Col. Guerrero  
06300 México D.F., MEXICO

**Telegrams: Sr. Procurador de la República, México D.F.**

**Fax: +52 5 626 4419**

**Salutation: Sr. Procurador de la República / Dear Attorney General**

**COPIES TO:**

Human rights NGO

Sres. CONPAZ  
Apartado Postal 41  
San Cristóbal de las Casas  
29200 Chiapas  
MEXICO

**Fax: +52 967 83868**

Newspaper

Sr. Director  
Reforma  
Avenida Mexico Coyoacán 40  
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Benito Juárez  
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**Fax: +52 5 628 7189**

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 1997.