

UA 193/00 Fear for safety/arbitrary detention/death threats/torture 4 July 20

**MEXICO** **Nicolas Basilio Enríquez, indigenous activist**  
**His family**

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An indigenous activist has reportedly been abducted and tortured by police, who warned him to tell no one. He has reported this to a national human rights organisation, and Amnesty International fears he and his family may face reprisals.

Nicolas Basilio Enríquez works for an indigenous organization active in the states of Veracruz and neighbouring Oaxaca, the *Convergencia Indígena Popular* (CIP), Popular Indigenous Grouping. On 15 June he and others from the Veracruz community of Cruz Verde were stopped by police as they travelled by van to the municipal capital, Playa Vicente.

The police officers, from the *Policía Judicial de Estado* (PJE), State Judicial Police, asked to see Nicolas Basilio Enríquez's identification papers and let the van go on. Five minutes later an unmarked police pickup truck apparently forced the van to stop. Police officers forced Nicolas Basilio Enríquez into the back of the pickup truck, where six men interrogated him, some in PJE uniform, others in plain clothes or the uniform of the *Policía Judicial Federal* (PJF), Federal Judicial Police. The police said they knew who he was, and everything he did, and that he should start talking. They claimed to have an arrest warrant, but made no attempt to take him to a police station or charge him.

The police apparently took him out of the truck, forced him to strip naked and used an electric shock prod (*picana eléctrica*) on him repeatedly, questioning him about the CIP, an armed opposition group, and drug trafficking. For the next six hours they reportedly drove him around naked and blindfolded, torturing him repeatedly with the electric shock prod as they interrogated him. At one point the police said they would kill him unless he told them where his "boss" lived.

His abductors eventually released him near the community of Valle, first warning him to say nothing about what had happened, because they were watching him and his family closely.

At first Nicolas Basilio Enríquez was frightened to make an official complaint to the authorities. However, some days later he decided to report what had happened to a non-governmental human rights organization.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Many members of indigenous organizations have reported that the security forces have targeted them for supposed links to armed opposition groups. Such groups are known to be active in the southern states of Chiapas, Guerrero and Oaxaca, and people from communities in these states have frequently faced abduction, torture, death threats and even death. Those responsible are almost never brought to justice. Fearing reprisals, the victims are often unwilling to lodge criminal complaints.

The security forces' campaign against emergent armed opposition groups over recent years has often led the authorities to engage in "indiscriminate repression of social organizations and leaders", according to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights 1998 report.

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

- calling on the authorities to guarantee the safety of Nicolas Basilio Enríquez and his family, after police reportedly threatened reprisals against them;
- urging a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into the reports that Nicolas Basilio Enríquez was abducted by police, who tortured him with an electric shock Barton and threatened to kill him;
- expressing concern that the police officers involved apparently claimed to have an arrest warrant, but made no attempt to charge him or take him to a recognised place of detention;
- calling on the authorities to make findings of the investigation public and bring to justice all those found responsible.

**APPEALS TO:**

Governor of Veracruz state

Lic. Miguel Aleman Velasco

Gobernador del Estado de Veracruz

Procurador General de Justicia del Estado de Veracruz

Palacio de Gobierno

Enríquez s/n esq. Leandro Valle, Col. Centro,

CP 91000, Jalapa, Estado de Veracruz, MEXICO

**Telegram: Gobernador del Estado, Jalapa, Veracruz, Mexico**

**Fax:+ 5228 18 21 67**

**Salutation:Estimado Gobernador/Dear Governor**

Attorney General of Veracruz state

Lic. Pericles Namorado Urrutia

Procurador General de Justicia en el Estado

Palacio de Gobierno

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**Fax: + 52 28 182167**

**Email: pgjver@pgjver.gob.mx**

**Salutation:Estimado Procurador/Dear Attorney General**

President of the state Human Rights Commission

Lic. Margarita Herrera Ortiz

Presidente del CEDH del Estado de Veracruz

C/ Justino Saramiento 3, Col. Aguacatal CP 91130

Jalapa, Estado de Veracruz, MEXICO

**Fax: + 52 28 145486 (if voice, please say, 'me da tono de fax, por favor')**

**Salutation:Estimada Lic. Herrera/Dear Sra. Herrera**

Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo

Procurador General de la República

Av Reforma, esq. Violeta

Col Guerrero

México D.F., CP 06300

MEXICO

**Telegram: Procurador General Republica, Mexico D.F., Mexico**

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**Salutation:Señor Procurador General/Dear Attorney General**

**COPIES TO:**

Non-governmental human rights organization

La Liga Mexicana por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (Limeddh)

Murgia 600 A Esquina Libres

Oaxaca, CP 68000, Estado de Oaxaca

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 15 August 2000.