

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/48/97

UA 186/97

"Disappearance" / Fear for safety /
ill-treatment

24 June 1997

MEXICO "Disappeared": Ignacio García Muñoz

Fear for safety: Alejandro Sámano Zapata
Martha de Jesús Caballero

Ill-treatment: Marcelino Díaz de Jesús

On 20 June 1997 Ignacio García Muñoz was reportedly detained by members of the Mexican Army at a road block in the municipality of Atlixnac, state of Guerrero. He has not been seen since.

According to reports, Ignacio García Muñoz, a local activist in the *Partido de la Revolución Democrática*, PRD, Party of the Democratic Revolution, a legal opposition party, was travelling in a van which was stopped and searched at a roadblock. He was detained by members of the army after they found his PRD membership card. Amnesty International fears for his physical integrity.

Marcelino Díaz de Jesús, a leader of the *Consejo Guerrerense 500 Años de Resistencia*, Guerrero Council 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance, an Indian rights non governmental organization in Guerrero, was reportedly abducted in mid-June 1997 by unidentified men, allegedly with links to the security forces. According to reports received by Amnesty International, he was beaten and threatened over a period of hours in order to extract information about Alejandro Sámano Zapata and Martha de Jesús Caballero, two fellow members of the *Consejo*. The abductors accused the two of belonging to the *Ejército Popular Revolucionario*, EPR, Revolutionary Popular Army, an armed opposition group.

Amnesty International believes that Alejandro Sámano Zapata and Martha de Jesús Caballero are at serious risk of being targeted by security forces or paramilitaries for human rights violations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since the massacre of 17 peasants on 28 June 1995 in Aguas Blancas in an ambush staged by Guerrero state police and government officials (see UA 159/95, AMR 41/15/95, 5 July 1995, and follow-ups AMR 41/16/95, 26 July 1995 and AMR 41/18/95, 17 August 1995), a wave of violence has swept through the state of Guerrero.

The EPR first appeared on 28 June 1996, the anniversary of the Aguas Blancas massacre. Since then the security forces and paramilitary groups have persistently targeted peasants and their leaders, including opposition party members, particularly those of the PRD, for intimidation, arrest, torture and extrajudicial execution, accusing them, as well as entire communities and organizations, of belonging to the EPR.

Two recent armed encounters between the EPR and the Mexican army have led to a heightening of tension and an increase in the number of PRD members and political activists in Guerrero being targeted for human rights violations such as arbitrary detention and torture (see UA 157/97, AMR 41/35/97, 30 May 1997 and follow-ups AMR 41/37/97, 4 June and AMR 41/38/97, 6 June 1997, AMR 41/43/97, 13 June 1997).

An example of the systematic human rights violations and impunity which prevail in the state of Guerrero is the case of Gregorio Alfonso Alvarado López (UA 237/96, 8 October 1997, AMR 41/61/96). A leading member of *the Consejo Guerrerense 500 Años de Resistencia*, he "disappeared" in October 1996, reportedly at the hands of paramilitary groups with links to local authorities. His whereabouts continue to be unknown and no-one has been brought to justice for the crime.

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

- expressing deep alarm at the "disappearance" of Ignacio García Muñoz and calling for a prompt and thorough investigation into his detention and whereabouts;
- urging that, if he is being held in detention, he be treated humanely;
- expressing outrage at the reported abduction and torture of Marcelino Díaz de Jesús, and calling for an immediate and thorough investigation;
- calling for steps to be taken to guarantee the safety of Alejandro Sámano Zapata and Martha de Jesús Caballero, and all other members of the PRD and *Consejo Guerrerense 500 Años de Resistencia* in the State of Guerrero, being targeted by the security forces solely for their political activities.

APPEALS TO:

1) 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: Procurador Madrazo, México D.F., México
Faxes: (+52 5) 626 4419
Salutation: Sr. Procurador General / Dear Attorney General

3) Attorney General of the State of Guerrero

Lic. Antonio Hernández Díaz
 Procurador del Estado de Guerrero
 Carretera Nacional México-Acapulco Km. 6.300
 CP 39.000, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, MEXICO.
Telegrams: Sr. Procurador, Guerrero, México
Faxes: + 52 747 223 28 (if voice ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")
Salutation: Sr. Procurador/ Dear State Attorney General

3) Interim Governor of the State of Guerrero

Ángel Heladio Aguirre Rivero
 Gobernador Interino del Estado de Guerrero
 Palacio de Gobierno
 Plaza Primer Congreso de Anahuac
 39000 Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico
Telegrams: Gobernador Aguirre, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico
Faxes: + 52 747 23072 (if voice ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")
Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

- 1) Daily newspaper

Sr. Editor, La Jornada, Balderas 68, 06050 México D.F., MEXICO

2) Human rights organization

Centro de Derechos Humanos

"Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C.

Puebla N. 153 Col. Roma,

06700 México D.F. 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 5 August 1997.