

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/50/96

29 August 1996

Further information on EXTRA 103/96 (AMR 41/34/96, 5 July 1996) and follow-up (AMR 41/37/96, 18 July) - Fear for safety / Fear of torture / Torture / Ill-treatment and new concern: Prisoner of conscience

MEXICO Hilario Mesino Acosta, peasant leader, human rights defender

new names: Norma Mesino Mesino (f), peasant activist, human rights defender,
daughter of Hilario Mesino Acosta

Rocío Mesino Mesino (f), peasant activist, human rights defender,
daughter of Hilario Mesino Acosta

María del Carmen (f), daughter of Hilario Mesino Acosta

Amnesty International is gravely concerned about latest reports confirming the torture of Hilario Mesino Acosta, human rights activist and a leader of the *Organización Campesina de la Sierra del Sur (OCSS)*, Southern Sierra Peasant Organization, in the state of Guerrero. Amnesty international also believes that he is a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for his non-violent activism on behalf of peasant and human rights in Guerrero.

Hilario Mesino Acosta was arbitrarily arrested on 3 July 1996 in Mexico City, and later transferred to the state prison in Acapulco, Guerrero, under unfounded charges of having links with the *Ejército Revolucionario Popular (EPR)*, Popular Revolutionary Army, an armed opposition group. He remained incommunicado for more than 24 hours following his arrest and has remained in detention in prison conditions which reportedly amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, including lack of adequate medical care and sanitation.

Latest reports have confirmed that Hilario Mesino Acosta has been tortured at least twice since his arrest, most recently on 24 August, to force him to confess to having links with the EPR. Apart from beatings and death threats he was also threatened with the "disappearance" and death of his daughters Rocío and Norma, both of whom are also members of the OCSS and have been active in advocating human rights in the state of Guerrero, as well as of María del Carmen, the only of his daughters who has been able to visit him in prison.

Rocío Mesino Mesino was also the victim of an attempted abduction on 7 February (see UA 37/96, AMR 41/06/96, 15 February 1996).

Amnesty International has no further information about the detainees named in the previous update (AMR 41/37/96, 18 July) and remains concerned for the safety. Appeals on their behalf may continue as previously specified.

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

- expressing deep concern about the latest reports confirming the torture of Hilario Mesino Acosta, calling for an immediate, full and impartial investigation into the torture and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- seeking assurances that he is now being protected from any further human rights violations;
- stating that he is a prisoner of conscience who should be released immediately and unconditionally;
- expressing grave concern about the threats against Norma, Rocío and María del Carmen Mesino Mesino, and calling for a full investigation into the threats and for measures to be taken immediately to ensure the safety of the three

women.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of the Republic

Lic. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León

Presidente de la República

Palacio Nacional, 06067 México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: Presidente Zedillo, México D.F., México

Telexes: 170937 sppnme; 1774468 sppnme

Faxes: + 52 5 271 1764 or + 52 5 515 1794 or 542 1648 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Presidente / Dear President

2) Attorney 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 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Procurador/ Dear Attorney

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 (voice line: ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

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1) Daily newspaper

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2) Centro de DD.HH.

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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 30 September 1996.