

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/53/97

UA 195/97

"Disappearance" / Fear for safety

2 July 1997

MEXICO "Disappeared": José Pacheco Pineda

Fear for safety: Severo Oyorzabal  
Mauro Oyorzabal

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On 27 June 1997 José Pacheco Pineda was abducted by four unidentified men who allegedly have links with the security forces. Amnesty International has serious concerns for his safety.

José Pacheco Pineda is the leader of the *Organización Campesina Independiente de Comunidades Indígenas*, (OCICI), Independent Peasant Organization of Indigenous Communities, an indigenous peasant farmers organization in the state of Guerrero.

The names of Severo Oyorzabal and Mauro Oyorzabal, other OCICI leaders, as well as that of José Pacheco Pineda, recently appeared in an article in the weekly magazine *El Proceso*. The article quoted a leaked document from the *Centro de Investigación y Seguridad Nacional*, CISEN, Centre for Investigation and National Security. The document claimed that peasant organizations in the state of Guerrero, such as the OCICI, were linked to the *Ejército Popular Revolucionario*, (EPR), Revolutionary Popular Army, an armed opposition group.

In light of the claims in the media about OCICI leaders Amnesty International fears that the brothers Severo Oyorzabal and Mauro Oyorzabal are at risk of being "disappeared" by the security forces or paramilitary groups, or of being subjected to incommunicado detention and torture in order to extract confessions of association with the EPR.

#### 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 for intimidation, arrest, torture, disappearance 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 peasant 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).

In September 1996, the *Procuraduría General de Guerrero*, (PGE), Attorney General's Office in Guerrero state published a list of journalists it unfoundedly considered to be EPR collaborators. As a consequence Amnesty International believes that a number of journalists listed were targeted for

human rights violations by security forces and paramilitary groups (see UA 227/96, AMR 41/58/96, 27 September 1996).

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

- expressing deep alarm at the "disappearance" of José Pacheco Pineda and calling for a prompt and thorough investigation into his abduction and whereabouts;
- urging that, if he is being held in detention, he be treated humanely and be granted access to relatives, a lawyer and a doctor;
- expressing concern for the safety of Severo Oyorzábal and Mauro Oyorzábal and calling on the authorities to take steps to guarantee their security;
- calling on the authorities to cease making unfounded claims about the involvement of peasant organizations and their members in guerrilla activities, which often results in those named being the target of human rights violations.

**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

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**Faxes: + 52 747 23072 (if voice ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")**

**Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor**

**COPIES TO:**

1) Weekly magazine

Sr. Editor, El Proceso

Fresas 13,

Col. Del Valle,

C.P. 03100, Mexico, D.F. MEXICO

2) Human rights organization

Centro de Derechos Humanos

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Puebla N. 153 Col. Roma,  
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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 13 August 1997.