

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/57/97

UA 212/97

Medical concern / Prisoners of conscience

14 July 1997

MEXICO Juan Zamora González, indigenous peasant leader
Marcos Zamora González

Indigenous peasant leader Juan Zamora González, who suffers from advanced diabetes, is reportedly being denied proper medical treatment in custody, including an appropriate supply of insulin. There is serious concern for his well-being.

He and his brother, Marcos Zamora González, were arbitrarily detained on 3 May 1997 in the city of Veracruz, the state of Veracruz. Amnesty International believes both men are prisoners of conscience who should be released immediately and unconditionally.

Juan Zamora Gonzalez is a Chinantec Indian and leader of the *Consejo Indígena de Uxpanapa*, (CIUX), Indigenous Council of Uxpanapa, an organization that campaigns for compensation to be paid to the Chinantec communities displaced by the building of hydroelectric dams in the states of Veracruz and Oaxaca.

The two men were detained by members of the State Judicial Police without arrest warrants and were then held in incommunicado detention for 72 hours. Amnesty International believes that Juan Zamora González has been detained solely for his peaceful work with CIUX. His brother, Marcos Zamora González, was allegedly detained purely for being a relative of Juan Zamora González and for being in the company of his brother at the time of his arrest.

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

- expressing grave concern over Juan Zamora González's state of health and calling for him to be given immediate access to proper medical care;
- expressing concern that Juan Zamora González has been detained because of his peaceful work as an activist in his indigenous community; and that his brother, Marcos Zamora Gonzalez, was arrested purely on the grounds of his relationship to Juan Zamora González;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of both Juan Zamora González and Marcos Zamora González, and for them to be granted appropriate compensation.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor

Secretario de la Gobernación

Secretaría de la Gobernación

Bucareli 99, 1er piso

Col. Juárez, 06699 México DF, MÉXICO

Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México D.F., México

Faxes: + 52 5 546 5350/+ 52 5 535 9952

Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Daily newspaper

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

Human rights organization

1) Centro de Derechos Humanos
"Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C.
Puebla N. 153 Col. Roma,
06700 México D.F. MEXICO

2) Working Group of Justice and Human Rights
National Indigenous Congress

UCIZONI,

Fax: + 52 972 21646

email: ucizoni@laneta.apc.org

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 27 August 1997.