

PUBLIC

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Fear for

**MEXICO**Héctor Pérez Córdova

**Other inmates of Topo Chico prison, Nuevo León state**

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A prisoner was ill-treated as punishment after human rights activists staged a peaceful protest outside the prison to launch Amnesty International's campaign against torture. It is feared that he and other inmates may face further reprisals.

On 26 October, human rights activists demonstrated outside Topo Chico prison (*CERESO de Topo Chico*) in the northern state of Nuevo León as part of the launch of Amnesty International's campaign against torture. Shortly afterwards, the head of security at the prison said to Héctor Pérez Córdova: "look at all the bother you've caused me outside, we're going to punish you for it" ("*mira todo el pedo que me andas haciendo afuera, por eso te vamos a castigar*"). He was stripped naked and placed in solitary confinement for seven days, without access to food or medicine he needs to control the symptoms of multiple sclerosis.

There have been frequent reports of torture in Topo Chico prison, where a climate of repression prevails. Since the demonstration took place, human rights organizations working with the inmates have been unable to get in contact with prisoners, raising concerns for their safety.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Although many prisoners have testified that they have been tortured in the Nuevo León region, the state authorities have consistently denied such reports. The punishment of Héctor Pérez Córdova provides further evidence that cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment takes place in Nuevo León, although such treatment is prohibited under the United Nations (UN) Convention against Torture, to which México is party.

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

- urging the authorities to take all necessary steps to guarantee the safety of Héctor Pérez Córdova and all other prisoners at Topo Chico prison;
- expressing concern that Héctor Pérez Córdova was reportedly ill-treated, urging the authorities to carry out a prompt, full and impartial investigation into his treatment;
- seeking assurances that all inmates are given access to adequate medical care as provided for by international standards such as the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;
- reminding the authorities of their obligation to comply with the UN Convention against Torture.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

Governor Nuevo León state

Lic. Fernando de Jesús Canales Clariond  
Gobernador del Estado de Nuevo León  
Palacio de Gobierno  
Planta Alta  
Calle 5 de Mayo entre Zaragoza y Zuazua  
Monterrey, Nuevo León C.P. 64009  
MÉXICO

**Telegrams: Gobernador, Nuevo León, México**  
**Faxes: + 52 8 343 42 34**  
**Salutation: Dear Mr. Governor/ Señor Gobernador**  
**E-mail: ebotello@nl.gob.mx**

Minister of the Interior  
Lic. Dióodoro Carrasco Altamirano  
Secretario de Gobernación  
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso  
Col. Juárez  
México D.F. 06699 MÉXICO  
**Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México**  
**Faxes: +52 5 546 5350**  
**Salutation: Señor Secretario / Dear Minister**  
**Email: secgober@mailinternet.com.mx**

President of the National Human Rights Commission  
Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández  
Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDH)  
Periférico Sur 3469, 5º piso  
Col. San Jerónimo Lídice  
México DF 10200  
MEXICO  
**Telegrams: Presidente CNDH, DF, México**  
**Faxes: + 52 5 135 0595**  
**Salutation: Sr Presidente / Dear Mr. President**  
**Email: correo@cndh.org.mx**

**COPIES TO:**

Non-governmental human rights organisation  
Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos A.C. (CADHAC)  
Padre Mier 617 Poniente  
Zona Centro, Monterrey,  
Nuevo León 64000  
MÉXICO

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 December 2000.