

EXTERNAL

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Fear for safety

22 August 1997

**MEXICOMaría Eugenia Cazares (f) and her family**

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María Eugenia Cazares and her family are reported to have been subjected to a series of threats and other acts of intimidation by members of the judicial police in Durango, Durango State. Fears for their safety have been heightened by an apparent attempt on the life of María Eugenia Cazares in recent days.

The threats have come as a result of a complaint filed by María Eugenia Cazares concerning the rape of her 16-year-old daughter on 16 March 1997. Yéssica Yadira Díaz Cazares was raped by three men, whom she later identified to the police. Upon informing the police, she was held incommunicado for a few hours along with her mother and two-year-old niece. While they were detained they were threatened and insulted both by members of the police and the alleged perpetrators. A representative of the Public Ministry threatened María Eugenia Cazares, warning that she had more children and that her demands would do her no good.

Yéssica Yadira Díaz Cazares later returned to make her statement and was again insulted and threatened. She was accused of being either mad or on drugs and was forced to take a blood test. As a result of her appalling treatment, Yéssica Yadira Díaz Cazares committed suicide on 16 June.

Since her suicide, her mother and family have suffered verbal intimidation and physical harassment. María Eugenia Cazares herself has recently received anonymous death threats by phone. The deputy Attorney General is reported to have told her "*a usted no le conviene seguir con esto. Más vale que ya se deje de cosas*" ("it's not in your interest to go on with this. Better that you give up now"). On 14 August a truck twice tried to knock María Eugenia Cazares down. She recognised one of those travelling inside as a member of the police force.

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

- calling for effective measures to guarantee the physical safety of María Eugenia Cazares and her family;
- calling for the perpetrators of the rape of Yéssica Yadira Díaz Cazares to be brought to justice immediately;
- expressing deep alarm at the manner in which María Eugenia Cazares has been treated by members of the judicial police force in Durango and the lack of efforts to convict those responsible for the rape of her daughter, Yéssica Yadira Díaz Cazares.

**APPEALS TO:**

Attorney General of the State of Durango  
Lic. Juan Francisco Arroyo Herrera  
Procurador General del Estado de Durango  
Reforma y 5 de febrero  
Zona Centro  
34000 Durango  
Durango, Mexico

**Faxes: + 52 18 17 52 56**

**Telegrams: Procurador General del Estado, Durango, Mexico**

**Salutation: Sr Procurador General / Dear Attorney General**

Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo Ccuéllar  
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., MEXICO**  
**Faxes: + 52 5 626 4419**  
**Salutation: Sr. Procurador/ Dear Attorney**

Governor of the State of Durango

Lic. Maximiliano Silverio Esparza  
Palacio de Gobierno  
Durango  
Durango, MEXICO  
**Faxes: + 52 18 17 52 56**  
**Telegrams: Gobernador Esparza, Durango, Mexico**  
**Salutation: Sr Gobernador / Dear Governor**

**COPIES TO:**

Centro de Derechos Humanos "Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez A.C."  
Puebla No 153  
Col Roma, 06700  
México D.F. MEXICO  
**Faxes: +525 208 7547**

Sr. Editor  
*La Jornada*  
Balderas 68  
06050 México D.F. MEXICO  
**Faxes: +525 521 2763 / 510 1901**

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 2 October 1997.