

EXTERNAL

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Fear for Safety

5 September 1997

MEXICO Elvira García Avelar and her family

Elvira García Avelar has received a warning that she and her family will be killed by members of the judicial police for continuing to call for investigations into the "disappearance" of her son, José Alberto Guadarrama García. José was abducted by members of the security forces in the town of Emiliano Zapata, Morelos State, on 26 March 1997. He has not been seen since.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 26 March 1997, José Alberto Guadarrama García and his mother were intercepted by a red car with Mexico City numberplates. When he tried to escape, he was shot in the back, and then forced into the car by four armed men. Elvira García Avelar recognised a member of the police force as one of her son's abductors later that day when she made a complaint to the judicial authorities. Despite assurances from the state Attorney General that the case would be investigated, neither the man she identified nor the others responsible for her son's "disappearance" have been brought to justice.

José Alberto Guadarrama García's brother was approached on 24 August by a man in his mid-twenties who did not identify himself. He claimed to have witnessed the abduction, saying that if José Alberto Guadarrama García's mother pursued the case any further, the family would be killed.

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

- expressing concern at the death threat made to Elvira García Avelar and her family;
- seeking assurances that effective measures will be taken to guarantee the physical safety of Elvira García Avelar and members of her family;
- calling for a prompt and thorough investigation into the "disappearance" of her son, José Alberto Guadarrama García and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) Attorney General of the Republic
Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuellar
Procuraduría General de la República
Paseo de la Reforma y Violeta
Col. Guerrero
06300 México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: Sr. Procurador de la República, México D.F.

Fax: +52 5 626 4419/4430

Salutation: Sr. Procurador de la República/Dear Attorney

2) Governor of the State of Morelos

Governor of the state of Morelos
Lic. Jorge Carrillo Olea
Gobernador del Estado de Morelos
Palacio de Gobierno Cuernavaca
Estado de Morelos, MEXICO

Fax: 52 73 11 3020 (if a voice responds, ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

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Telegrams: Gobernador Morelos, Mexico
Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

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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 17 October 1997.