

EXTERNAL

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Fear for safety

28 October 1997

MEXICO Layda Sansores Sanromán, political activist
and members of her family

Death threats have been made against politician Layda Sansores Sanromán and her family by members of the security forces and the ruling *Partido Revolucionario Institucional* (PRI), Institutional Revolutionary Party, in the city of Campeche, Campeche State. Amnesty International is seriously concerned for their safety.

On 15 October 1997, two men followed Layda Sansores Sanromán and told her that she would be killed if she continued with her activism. The following day, a message was left on the answering machine at her house threatening the whole family with death.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Layda Sansores Sanromán ran for the governorship of Campeche State as the candidate for the *Partido de la Revolución Democrática* (PRD), Party of the Democratic Revolution, a legal opposition party, in elections on 6 July 1997.

The election was won by Antonio González Curi, candidate for the PRI amid allegations of serious irregularities. Since then, members of the PRD have staged peaceful demonstrations demanding that Layda Sansores Sanromán be recognised as the state governor. On 11 September, police violently broke up a PRD demonstration and injured 15 people.

The death threats mentioned above form part of a continuing pattern of intimidation against Layda Sansores Sanromán, her family, and members of the PRD in Campeche. High-ranking state officials are alleged to be behind these death threats.

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

- urging for measures to be taken to guarantee the physical integrity of Layda Sansores Sanromán and her family;
- calling for prompt and thorough investigations into the death threats made against Layda Sansores Sanromán and her family, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- expressing alarm at the level of intimidation and harassment against members of the PRD in Campeche State.

APPEALS TO:

1) President of the Republic
Lic. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León
Presidente de la República
Palacio Nacional
06067 México D.F.
MEXICO

Telegrams: Presidente Zedillo, México DF, México

Faxes: +52 5 271 1764

Salutation: Sr. Presidente/ Dear President

2) Minister of the Interior
Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor

Secretario de Gobernación
 Secretaría de Gobernación
 Bucareli 99, 1er. piso
 Col. Juárez
 06699 México D.F.

MEXICO

Telegrams: Secretario de Gobernación, México DF, México

Faxes: +52 5 546 5350

Salutation: Sr. Secretario/ Dear Minister

3) Governor of the State of Campeche
 Lic. Antonio González Curi
 Gobernador del Estado de Campeche
 Palacio de Gobierno, Campeche
 Estado de Campeche

MEXICO

Telegrams: Gobernador González, Campeche, Campeche, México

Faxes: + 52 981 620 39/ 981 638 66

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador/ Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

1) Human Rights Commission of the Senate

Senador Auldarico Hernández Gerónimo

Presidente de la Comisión

de Derechos Humanos del Senado

Comisión del Senado

Xicoténcatl 9, mezanine, desp 34

06018 México D.F.

MEXICO

Fax: + 52 5 535 0840 Ext. 3602

2) Human Rights Commission of the Chamber of Deputies

Diputado Benito Mirón Lince

Edificio del Congreso de la Nación

Avenida del Congreso

Edificio A, 2 nivel, puerta 211

Mexico, D.F. MEXICO

3) Human Rights Organisation

Centro de Derechos Humanos

"Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C.

Puebla N. 153 Col. Roma,

06700 México D.F. MEXICO

Fax: +52 5 208 7547

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 9 December 1997.