

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/102/97

UA 348/97

Fear for safety

5 November 1997

MEXICO **Cornelio Barrientos Cortés (25), political activist**
Martín Barrientos Cortés

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Cornelio Barrientos Cortés and his brother, Martín Barrientos Cortés who are being subjected to intimidation and death threats by Mexican security forces. Martín Barrientos Cortés was previously detained and subjected to torture by members of the Mexican army between 28 May and 9 June 1997.

On 30 October 1997, around 30 members of the Mexican army and police agents arrived in the community of El Cucuyachi, municipality of Atoyac de Alvarez, Guerrero State. Their purpose was to interrogate inhabitants concerning the death of Roberto López, a political activist for the *Partido de la Revolución Democrática* (PRD), Party of the Democratic Revolution, the legal opposition party. Roberto López was murdered on 29 October 1997. They accused Martín Barrientos Cortés, also a PRD member, of being the perpetrator but made no arrest. The army and police agents then proceeded to the house of his brother, Cornelio Barrientos Cortés, to whom they issued death threats whilst forcing him to rewrite an account of the incident involving Roberto López in which he had been critical of the involvement of the security forces.

On 31 October, members of the Mexican army returned to the same community in search of Cornelio Barrientos Cortés but failed to find him.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Twelve families have recently fled the community of El Cucuyachi in fear of their safety amidst increasing levels of intimidation by security forces in the area. Members of the PRD in this area of Guerrero State are often subjected to human rights violations by the security forces. For further information see UA 157/97, AMR 41/35/97, 30 May 1997 and follow-ups AMR 41/37/97, 4 June 1997; AMR 41/38/97, 6 June 1997 and AMR 41/43/97, 13 June 1997.

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

- urging that measures be taken to ensure the physical integrity of Cornelio Barrientos Cortés and Martín Barrientos Cortés;
- calling for prompt and thorough investigations into death threats issued to the two brothers, reportedly, by members of the Mexican security forces;
- expressing concern at intimidation suffered by members of the opposition Party of the Democratic Revolution in Guerrero.

APPEALS TO:

1) Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo Cuéllar

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 República, México D.F., Mexico

Faxes: +52 5 626 4419

Salutation: Sr. Procurador de la República / Dear Attorney General

2) Attorney General of the State of Guerrero

Lic. Antonio Hernández Díaz

Procurador del Estado de Guerrero

Carretera Nacional México-Acapulco Km. 6.300

CP 39.000, Chilpancingo, Guerrero, MEXICO.

Telegrams: Procurador, Guerrero, Mexico

Faxes: + 52 747 223 28 (if voice ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Procurador/ Dear Attorney

3) Interim Governor of the State of Guerrero

Ángel Heladio Aguirre Rivero

Gobernador Interino del Estado de Guerrero

Palacio de Gobierno

Plaza Primer Congreso de Anahuac

39000 Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico

Telegrams: Gobernador Aguirre, Guerrero, Mexico

Faxes: +52 747 230 72 (if voice ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

Salutation: Sr. Gobernador / Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Human Rights Organisations

Centro de Derechos Humanos

"Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C.

Puebla No. 153

Col. Roma, 06700

México D.F. MEXICO

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 18 December 1997.