

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/01/96

UA 09/96

Threats / Fear for safety

16 January 1996

**MEXICORocío Culebro (f), human rights activist
and other human rights activists**

On 12 January 1996 Rocío Culebro, coordinator of *La Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para todos"*, National Network of Non-governmental Human Rights Organizations "Full Rights for Everybody", based in Mexico City, received a series of anonymous phone calls at her home.

In a call at 8pm the caller reportedly told her all the details about her home and the people who were with her at that moment. He then threatened her, saying that he would go to her home immediately to harm her.

The threats came the day before Rocío Culebro was due to travel to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington DC, USA, in order to present the National Network's third report on the massacre at Aguas Blancas, Guerrero state, on 28 June 1995 in which 17 peasants were killed by members of the security forces (see UA 159/95, AMR 41/15/95, 5 July and follow-ups AMR 41/16/95, 26 July and AMR 41/18/95, 17 August). Following allegations of irregularities in the post-mortem on the bodies of the 17 victims, Judge Adolfo Vanmeeter Roque has ordered their exhumation to try to verify the cause and manner of death.

As investigations into the massacre continue, Amnesty International remains extremely concerned for the safety of Rocío Culebro and other members of the National Network.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members of grassroots organizations who have been active in promoting and protecting human rights in Mexico, have frequently encountered opposition from the authorities and there has been an increase in the threats suffered by human rights workers in the last year (for example, see UA 203/95, AMR 41/19/95, 18 August 1995; UA 157/95, AMR 41/14/95, 4 July and UA 105/95, AMR 41/11/95, 3 May).

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Rocío Culebro and other human rights activists belonging to *La Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para todos"*, apparently threatened because of their work in the case of the massacre of Aguas Blancas, Guerrero;
- calling for immediate measures to guarantee their safety;
- urging a prompt and thorough investigation into the threats and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take measures to ensure the safety of all human rights workers in Mexico and particularly of those whose work is involved in the massacre of 28 June 1995 in Guerrero 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 D.F., México

Telexes: 170937 sppnme; 1774468 sppnme

Faxes: + 52 5 271 1764

Salutation: Sr. President/Dear President

2) Minister of the Interior

Lic. Emilio Chuayffet Chemor

Secretario de la Gobernación

Secretaría de la Gobernación

Bucareli 99, 1er piso

Col. Juárez

06699, México DF, MÉXICO

Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México D.F., México

Faxes: + 52 5 546 7388

Salutation: Sr. Secretario/Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

1) Weekly magazine

Sr. Editor

La Jornada

Balderas 68

06050, México D.F., MÉXICO

2) Human Rights Organization

Sres.

Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles

de Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para Todos"

Puebla 153, Col, Roma

06700, México D.F., MÉXICO

and to diplomatic representatives of México accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 March 1996.