

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 41/77/97

19 August 1997

Further information on UA 230/97 (AMR 41/61/97, 23 July 1997) - "Disappearance"/Torture

MEXICO

Benito Bahena Maldonado, peasant activist

New names: Fredy Nava Ríos (16), army recruit

Miguel Castro Munillo (38), peasant activist

Amnesty International remains gravely concerned for the physical safety of Benito Bahena Maldonado, last seen in a detention centre in Mexico City at the end of June 1997. The organization has now also learnt of the "disappearance" of two other men from the same region, Fredy Nava Ríos and Miguel Castro Munillo.

Fredy Nava Ríos was detained on 29 May in Petatlán, Guerrero State. The *Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional*, Ministry of National Defence, reportedly informed his father, Manuel Nava Baltazar, that an order had been issued for his arrest for his apparent desertion of the army but denied that the military had detained him. However, a soldier informed the father that Fredy Nava Ríos had been held for four days at a barracks in Atoyac, Guerrero State where he had been tied up, blindfolded and subjected to beatings. He has since been moved to another place of detention but his whereabouts remain unknown.

Miguel Castro Munillo was last seen on 4 April as he passed through a checkpoint of the *Procuraduría General de la República*, Attorney General of the Republic between San Francisco del Tibor and Acapulco, Guerrero State. It is feared he has been detained for his involvement in a peasant organization, the *Coalición de Ejidos de la Costa Grande*, Coalition of Small Farm holders of the Costa Grande, and a political party, the *Partido de la Revolución Democrática*, Party of the Democratic Revolution.

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

- calling for the whereabouts of Benito Bahena Maldonado, Fredy Nava Ríos and Miguel Castro Munillo to be made public immediately and for their families to be informed of their physical conditions;
- seeking assurances that if they are in detention they are being treated humanely;
- expressing concern at the lack of investigation into the abduction and torture of Benito Bahena Maldonado and Fredy Nava Ríos and into the "disappearance" of Miguel Castro Munillo;
- expressing deep alarm at the increasing number of reports of human rights violations in the state of Guerrero, the apparent lack of effective action to stop them and the impunity currently enjoyed by most perpetrators.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Defence

Gral. Enrique Cervantes Aguirre
Secretario de la Defensa Nacional
Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional
Blvd. Manuel Ávila Camacho y
Avda. Industria Militar
Col. Lomas de Sotelo

11640 México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: Sr. Secretario Defensa Nacional, México D.F., MEXICO

Faxes: +52 5 557 8963

Salutation: Sr. Secretario / Dear Minister

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: Sr. Procurador, Guerrero, MEXICO

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

Salutation: Sr. Procurador / Dear State Attorney

3) Interim Governor of the State of Guerrero

Angel Heladio Aguirre Rivero

Gobernador Interino del Estado de Guerrero

Palacio de Gobierno

Plaza Primer Congreso de Anahuac

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Faxes: + 52 747 230 72

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 30 September 1997.