

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/26/00

UA 151/00

Fear for Safety

7 June 2000

MEXICO

Members of the non-governmental human rights organisation, the *Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para Todos"*, National Network of Civil Human Rights Organisations "All Rights for Everyone"

Amnesty International is concerned by further incidents of intimidation of human rights defenders in Mexico.

In the afternoon of 5 June 2000, two unknown men in a car were seen keeping a close watch on the offices of the *Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para Todos"*, National Network of Civil Human Rights Organisations "All Rights for Everyone" (the Network). The men filmed all those who went in and out of the building over a period of three hours. This took place at the same time as a meeting of the Coordinating Team -- representatives from five of the 52 organizations from across Mexico which are members of the Network.

When staff from the Network approached the car one man quickly covered the camera and they drove off. A legal complaint has been filed with the Public Ministry, *Ministerio Público*.

People living nearby reported seeing the same car parked outside the offices for a few hours on 2 June. Previously, on 4 May, members of the Network had noticed two different vehicles apparently keeping watch. One had a radio communication device (*radio de banda civil*) and crash bars (*tumba burros*) on the front, like those used on police vehicles.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has documented numerous cases of intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders in Mexico. One of the members of the Network, the *Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez* (PRODH), Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Centre, has received several death threats (see UA 233/99, AMR 41/23/99, 6 September 1999 and follow-up). A lawyer from the PRODH, Digna Ochoa y Plácido, was abducted and threatened in August 1999, and on 28 October 1999 unknown individuals entered her house, tied her up and interrogated her at length about members of the PRODH.

In recent weeks Mexican human rights activists have reported rising tensions in the country in the run-up to presidential elections, due to be held on 2 July.

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

- expressing deep concern about the intimidation of members of the *Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para Todos"*, National Network of Civil Human Rights Organisations "All Rights for Everyone";
- calling for a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into these acts of intimidation, for those responsible to be brought to justice, and for the results to be made public;
- reminding the authorities of their obligation to ensure the safety of all human rights defenders, as specified in their commitment to the resolution on Human Rights Defenders in the Americas, adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States on 7 June 1999.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic

Dr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León,
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio Nacional, Patio de Honor,
 Primer piso, Col. Centro,
 México D.F., C.P. 06067
 MEXICO

Telegrams: Presidente, México
Faxes: +52 5 515 5729
Salutation: Señor Presidente / Mr President

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Dióodoro Carrasco Altamirano,
 Secretario de Gobernación
 Bucareli No.99, Primer piso,
 Col. Juárez, México D.F., C.P. 06699
 MEXICO

Telegrams: Secretario Gobernación, México
Faxes: +52 5 546 5350
Salutation: Señor Ministro / Dear Minister

Attorney General of Mexico City

Dr. Samuel Ignacio del Villar Kretchmar
 Procurador General de Justicia del Distrito Federal
 Fray Servando Teresa de Mier 32, piso 11
 Col. Centro CP 06080
 México D.F. MEXICO

Telegrams: Procurador DF, México
Faxes: +52 5 133 7631
Salutation: Señor Procurador / Dear Attorney General

Governmental National Human Rights Commission

Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández,
 Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos
 Periférico Sur 3469, 5o piso,
 Col. San Jerónimo Lídice,
 México D.F., C.P. 10200
 MEXICO

Faxes: +52 5 135 0595 (If a voice answers, please say: "el tono de fax, por favor)
E-mail: correo@cndh.org.mx
Salutation: Estimado Dr. Soberanes / Dear Dr. Soberanes

COPIES TO:Non-governmental human rights organization

Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de
 Derechos Humanos "Todos los Derechos para Todos"
 Puebla No. 45, Primer piso, Col. Roma
 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 19 July 2000.