

21 June 2000

Further information on Extra 52/00 (AMR 41/25/00, 30 May 2000) - Prisoners of conscience/Ill-treatment/ Fear for safety

MEXICO **Rodolfo Montiel Flores] Environmentalists, prisoners of Teodoro Cabrera García] conscience**

Prison authorities have continued to threaten and intimidate two environmental activists, detained in an attempt to silence them and their group.

On 17 July 2000, the Iguala Prison authorities cut off the water supply and telephone services to inmates. Prison officials reportedly told inmates that Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera were to blame. Amnesty International is concerned that they may be seeking to incite inmates to attack the two prisoners of conscience.

Prison officials are also reported to have photographed the two several times without giving any reason and have questioned them on their activities prior to their arrest. Their lawyers have said that prison officials have frequently placed arbitrary restrictions on their access to the two men and have repeatedly undermined their right to confidential communication with their clients.

There has been considerable confusion since a 5 June 2000 deadline by which time the *Procuraduría General de la República* (PGR), Attorney General's Office was to decide whether to continue with the prosecution of Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera. Both men have been detained since May 1999, when they were arrested by soldiers of the 40th Infantry Battalion, who allegedly forced them to sign confessions under torture. These confessions are the basis of firearm and drug charges they now face.

On 20 June 2000 Amnesty International wrote to the Attorney General seeking clarification of reports that the PGR had reversed a decision to drop the charges and now intend to continue with the prosecution of the two men. The organization asked the Attorney General to act immediately to ensure that a full review of the case is made public before any decision is made by the PGR. The Attorney General has so far failed to meet a commitment made to Amnesty International in April to carry out such a comprehensive review of the case and publish the findings.

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

(In appeals to the President, Governor of Iguala Prison and Director General of Prison Services:)

-expressing concern for the safety of Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera in the light of their treatment by prison authorities, particularly of the apparent attempts by prison officials to spark violence against them by other inmates;

(In appeals to the Governor of Iguala Prison and Director General of Prison Services:)

- reminding the authorities that they are responsible for the safety of both men;

- expressing concern at reports of arbitrary restrictions by the prison authorities on access of the two men to their defence team and of violations in to their right to confidential communication with their defence council;

(In appeals to the President and Attorney General)

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera, detained solely for their peaceful protests against excessive logging in Guerrero state;
- reminding the authorities of the Attorney General's stated commitment to carry out a comprehensive review of the case and to publish the results;

APPEALS TO: (If a voice answers on fax numbers, ask "me puede dar tono de fax, por favor")

President of the Republic

Dr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León
Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
Residencia Oficial de Los Pinos
Del. Miguel Hidalgo, CP 118500
México D.F., MEXICO

Telegrams: President, México D.F., México

Faxes: + 52 5 515 5729

Salutation: Señor Presidente/ Dear Mr President

Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Jorge Madrazo
Procurador General de la República
Av Reforma, esq. Violeta
Col Guerrero
México D.F., CP 06300
MEXICO

Telegram: Procurador General República, México D.F., México

Fax: + 52 5 346 0906

Salutation: Señor Procurador General/ Dear Attorney General

Governor of Iguala Prison, Guerrero state

Lic. Carlos Coronel Avitia
Director del CERESO de Iguala
Centro de Re-adaptación Social de Iguala
Carretera Iguala - Tuxpan, CP 40101
Iguala, Estado de Guerrero, Mexico

Fax: 52 733 20760

Salutation: Señor Director, Dear Governor

Director General of Prison Services of Guerrero State

Lic. José Luis Trujillo Sotelo
Director General de Prevención y Re-adaptación Social del Estado de Guerrero
Palacio de Gobierno
Sótano 2, Zona Centro, C.P. 39000, Chilpancingo, Guerrero.

Fax: + 52 447 24919

Salutation: Sr Director General / Dear Director General

COPIES TO:

Non-governmental Human Rights organization

Centro de Derechos Humanos "Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C.
Serapio Rendon 57-B
Col. San Rafael
06470 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.