

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/35/00

4 July 2000

Further information on UA 177/00 (AMR 41/30/00, 23 June 2000) and follow-up (AMR 41/31/00, 26 June 2000) - Fear for safety / death threats / Ill-treatment / Possible "disappearance"

MEXICO                    Eliud ALMAGUER ALDAPE  
                          Omar GIL AGUILERA  
                          Luisa Estela ALVAREZ MORENO [f]  
                          Isabel TORRES ALAMEDA [f]  
                          María del Refugio GUZMAN FLORES [f]  
                          Margarita RINCON [f]  
                          Sofía Dania MOLINA SUAREZ [f]  
                          Marta VARGAS PEREA [f]  
                          Consuelo MORENO [f]  
                          Karina VALDEZ [f]  
                          Rosaura SANCHEZ [f]  
                          Elvira MEZA MALDONADO [f]

and other workers at Duro Bag Manufacturing, Río Bravo, Tamaulipas state.

Workers' leader Eliud Almaguer Aldape is safe and well. He was feared to have "disappeared" on 22 June, but it now appears he was not in danger.

All the Duro workers arrested on 19 June have been released on bail. Police reportedly beat and threatened the striking workers, mainly women, during the two operations to arrest them.

The management of the plant have reportedly agreed to reinstate all the workers, except Eliud Almaguer Aldape, to drop criminal charges against those detained and to recognise the independent trade union. However, since then the Duro management and state authorities have also reportedly continued to pressure the workers to withdraw their demands. It is unclear what the final agreement will be and the workers are continuing their peaceful protest, calling for the recognition of an independent union and to improve work and pay conditions.

No further action is requested from the Urgent Action network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.