

**PUBLICAI Index: AMR 41/28/99**

**UA 278/99 Fear for Safety 22 October 1999**

**MEXICO Ricardo Martínez Martínez (24)**

One of the students involved in organising a strike at the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* (UNAM), National Autonomous University of Mexico, was apparently abducted on 20 October 1999. His whereabouts are now unknown, and Amnesty International fears for his safety.

UNAM student Ricardo Martínez Martínez, a member of the *Consejo General de Huelga* (CGH), General Strike Council, was reportedly abducted by three unidentified men as he alighted from a bus on the corner of Avenida Vallejo and Avenida Montevideo, in the Azcapotzalco district of Mexico City. According to an eye-witness, the three men violently forced him into a car and drove off.

His abduction is believed to have been formally reported to the Public Ministry.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

UNAM students have been on strike since 22 April 1999 in protest at proposed reforms to the University system, most notably a planned increase in tuition fees. Amnesty International has documented several attacks on students involved in the strike.

According to information received by Amnesty International, during the UNAM strike - now in its sixth month - students have been abducted, tortured, beaten and in some cases even subjected to simulated executions. (See News Service 109/99, AMR 41/09/99, 4 June 1999). The identities of those responsible are unknown.

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

- calling on the authorities to take all necessary measures to discover the whereabouts of Ricardo Martínez Martínez, a student at the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* (UNAM), who was allegedly abducted in Mexico City on 20 October 1999;
- urging that a prompt independent investigation be opened into the abduction, that the findings be made public and that those responsible be brought to justice.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

Mayor of Mexico City  
Licda. Rosario Robles  
Jefatura de Gobierno del Distrito Federal

Plaza de la Constitución esq.  
Piso 1, 06068(5) México D.F. MEXICO  
**Faxes: +52 5 542 1429**  
**Salutation: Sr. Ing / Dear Mayor**

Attorney General of Mexico City  
Lic. Samuel del Villar Krechmar  
Procurador General de Justicia del Distrito Federal  
Carmona y Valle 54, Col. Doctores  
06820 México D.F. MEXICO  
**Faxes: +52 5 625 9000**  
**Salutation: Sr. Procurador / Dear Attorney General**

**COPIES TO:**

Mexico City Commission for Human Rights  
Dr. Luis de la Barrera Solórzano,  
Av. Chapultepec N° 49, 1er Piso,  
Centro,  
Cuauhtémoc,  
06040 México, DF  
MEXICO  
**Fax: + 52 5 578 2578**

Human Rights non-governmental organization  
Centro de Derechos Humanos  
"Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" A.C.  
Serapio Rendon 57-B  
Col. San Rafael  
06470 México D.F. MEXICO

Newspaper  
La Jornada  
Balderas 68, 06050 México D.F., MEXICO  
**Faxes: + 52 5 5212763/5101901**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 December 1999.