

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 41/028/2008

25 June 2008

UA 182/08 Fear for safety/Death threats

MEXICO Jorge Aragón Martínez, teacher and political activist
His son, aged 19

The son of political activist Jorge Aragón Martínez was threatened with death after they took part in a demonstration in protest at a visit to his home municipality by the governor of Oaxaca State.

Jorge Aragón Martínez is a member of a group who are critical of the local municipal authorities and of the state government, who they see as corrupt and lacking democratic legitimacy, the Political Committee of the Zaáchila Community Assembly (*Consejo Político de la Asamblea Comunitaria de Zaáchila*).

State governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz was due to visit Villa de Zaáchila, a municipality near the Oaxaca State capital, on 20 June. Shortly before he was due to arrive, a group of protesters blocked the roads to the main square, where the event was due to take place, with tyres and rocks. According to a local human rights NGO, the mayor (*Presidente Municipal*) and other municipal officials, aided by a group of municipal police and supporters of the local government, attacked the protesters, who in turn threw stones to defend themselves. One of the protesters filmed the mayor's brother and his father shooting at the crowd with pistols. They narrowly missed one protester; several others were beaten and one was taken to hospital with a broken nose. According to information received, state and municipal authorities have taken no action over the shooting.

On 21 June, Jorge Aragón Martínez, who had taken part in the protest, received a text message saying, "The Zuliks hired someone from Sola to kill your son ... and asked for it to be done with an AK-47." (*los Zulik contrataron a unos de Sola, para matar a tu hijo, ... pidieron que sea con cuerno de chivo*) and shortly afterwards another, saying, "They're coming and know where you are." (*ya vienen para ka los tienen ubicados*). Members of the Zulik family were present during the attack on the protesters and the threat appears to be in retaliation for one of them apparently being hit by a stone. On 24 June, Jorge Aragón Martínez was photographed by a municipal official as he was leaving the school where he works.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Oaxaca state authorities have repeatedly used excessive force, sometimes lethal, to disperse protests against the controversial state governor. Those responsible have not been brought to justice.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Spanish or your own language:

- calling on the authorities to provide adequate protection for Jorge Aragón Martínez who took part in the protests on 20 June in Villa de Zaáchila, and his family, in accordance with their wishes;
- urging the authorities to carry out a swift and impartial investigation into the text message death threats received by Jorge Aragón Martínez and to bring those responsible to justice;
- calling on them to conduct an investigation into the disturbances in Villa de Zaáchila on 20 June and for anyone implicated in human rights violations to be brought to justice, including those responsible for shooting on protesters.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Interior

Lic. Juan Camilo Mouriño Terrazo
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso,
Col. Juárez, Del. Cuauhtémoc,
México D.F., C.P.06600,
MEXICO

Fax: +52 55 5093 3414
E-mail: secretario@segob.gob.mx
Salutation: Señor Secretario/Dear Minister

Governor of Oaxaca

Lic. Ulises Ruiz Ortiz
Gobernador del Estado de Oaxaca
Carretera Oaxaca-Puerto Ángel, Km. 9.5,
Santa María Coyotepec, Oaxaca C.P. 71254,
Oaxaca, MEXICO

Fax: +52 951 502 0530 (if a voice answers, ask "me da tono de fax, por favor")
E-mail: gobernador@oaxaca.gob.mx
Salutation: Señor Gobernador/Dear Governor

State Attorney General of Oaxaca

Lic. Evencio Nicolás Martínez Ramírez
Procurador General de Justicia del Estado de Oaxaca
Avenida Luis Echeverría s/n,
Col. La Experimental,
San Antonio de la Cal, Oaxaca C.P. 71236,
Oaxaca, MEXICO

Fax: +52 951 511 5519
Salutation: Dear Attorney General/Estimado Procurador

Oaxaca State Human Rights Commission

Lic. Jaime Mario Pérez Jiménez
Presidente de la Comisión para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos en Oaxaca (CDDHO)
Calle de los Derechos Humanos no. 210, Col. América, C.P. 68050, Oaxaca, MEXICO

E-mail: correo@cedhoax.org
Fax: +52 951 503 0220 (if a voice answers, ask "me da tono de fax, por favor")
Salutation: Dear President/Estimado Presidente

COPIES TO:

Comité 25 de Noviembre, Calzada de la Republica #209, Centro, Oaxaca, CP 68000, MEXICO
Email: victoria_25noviembre@yahoo.com.mx

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 6 August 2008.