



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – Mexico, 10 April 2007

ARTICLE 19 strongly condemns the assassination of Mexican journalist Amado Ramírez Dillanes

On 6 April 2007, journalist AMADO RAMÍREZ DILLANES was shot dead at close range with three bullets in the city of Acapulco, Guerrero, as he was leaving the offices of broadcasting station Radiorama, where he conducted his daily news programme *Al Tanto*. State authorities have not speculated on the possible motive of the murder. However, it was well-known that Ramírez Dillanes was investigating the alleged links between the local police force and drug traffickers.

ARTICLE 19, the Global Campaign for Free Expression deeply condemns this heinous killing, which is the latest of a string of similar attacks on and assassinations of journalists in the last twelve months in Mexico, and demonstrates the precarious and alarming climate in which journalists are doing their job in the country. It is not an exaggeration to compare the present situation with what is going on in countries like Iraq and Colombia, with the only difference that in Mexico there is no large-scale conflict.

In early 2006, the Mexican government created a special prosecutor's office to investigate crimes against the press, but very few have been brought to justice so far for these crimes, and an overall climate of impunity predominates.

The murder of AMADO RAMÍREZ DILLANES is a direct attack against the right to freedom of expression, on which ARTICLE 19 demands a prompt and effective investigation of the General State Prosecution Office and, if necessary, of the General Prosecution of the Republic of Mexico, should this outrageous crime appear to be closely connected with drug trafficking.

ARTICLE 19 reaffirms its commitment to freedom of expression and access to information and wishes to express its condolences to the family of AMADO RAMÍREZ DILLANES as well as to the journalists' guild.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

For further information, contact Dario Ramirez, Director, ARTICLE 19 Mexico, at dario@article19.org or Francesca Fanucci, Coordinator Latin America Programme, ARTICLE 19 London, at francesca@article19.org

ARTICLE 19 is an independent human rights organisation that works around the world to protect and promote the right to freedom of expression. It takes its name from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees free speech.