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Americas - Mexico

Murder still unsolved

Court overturns conviction for Proceso reporter's murder

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Reporters Without Borders notes that a court in the eastern state of <u>Veracruz</u> yesterday overturned Jorge Antonio Hernández's conviction for *Proceso* investigative journalist <u>Regina</u> <u>Martínez</u>'s murder on the grounds that it was based solely on a confession, possibly extracted under torture.

An illiterate man also known as "El Silva," Hernández was given a 38-year jail sentence in April for her murder.

"This case is still unsolved," Reporters Without Borders said. "The investigation must be started again and must be conducted in a serious manner, taking account of the victim's work as a journalist and with the aim of identifying and arresting both the perpetrators and instigators."

Martínez specialized in investigating drug trafficking and local government corruption in Veracruz state for the newsweekly *Proceso*. A few days before her April 2012 murder, she covered a case implicating nine police officers in drug trafficking.

Shortly after Hernández's conviction in April of this year, *Proceso* accused current and former Veracruz state officials of plotting to kill **Jorge Carrasco**, a Proceso reporter who had been investigating Martínez's murder.

<u>Mexico</u> is one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists, with a total of 88 killed in the past decade and 17 others missing. Most of these cases are unsolved and unpunished.