

# MEXICO

## Defamation charges against women's activist and journalist are dropped, then new attempt on her life

RRN letters 07/26/05 and 12/22/05  
UA 37/05

RRN members have written at least twice to Mexican officials in defense of Lydia Cacho Ribeiro of Cancun, Quintana Roo State, a journalist and children's/women's rights activist and president of the Women's Assistance Center (CIAM). From April 25 to July 1 2005 she received at least 42 threatening phone calls from a former state police officer whose wife and children were being sheltered by CIAM. Although a new state administration withdrew protection from CIAM in April 2005, Cacho was granted personal security through the Federal Investigation Agency.



Lydia Cacho Ribiero at the Amnesty International General Meeting in Milwaukee, where she was awarded for her defense of human right. April 2007.

"I am really happy because I am in a room looking at the faces of the people that saved my life. I am the one that is here thanking you for being Amnesty International, because [of] what you did with your Urgent Actions, what you did to put pressure on my government to beat organized crime. Thank you so much."

In her 2004 book *Los Demonios del Eden*, Cacho traces the involvement of important businessmen in a child pornography ring. Police arrested her on December 16, 2005 after one of those businessmen filed a defamation complaint. Since defamation is a criminal offense, it is used to intimidate and silence journalists. She could have faced up to four years in prison.

### January 20 2006

A court granted Lydia a change of venue to her home state of Quintana Roo. Cacho claimed she could not get a fair trial in Puebla because José Camel Nacif, the businessman suing her, was well-connected there. Cacho linked Camel Nacif to a child pornography ring in her book.

### **GOOD NEWS!**

### **February 2007**

**The defamation charges against Lydia Cacho were dropped.**

### ***NEW DANGER: attempt on Lydia Cacho's life by sabotaging her car***

### **May 2007**

Just five days after giving evidence in an extremely heated hearing of the trial of one of the businessmen identified in her book, someone tampered with the Federal Investigation Agency car she was riding in with her bodyguards in Mexico City on May 7. After driving they discovered the tire bolt was sawed off. Fortunately, Lydia was not

hurt, but Amnesty International fears that her life is still in danger. Lydia Cacho has filed an official complaint with the Federal Attorney General, indicating that she believes the car was intentionally sabotaged to kill her.