

via fax: 011 011 52 55 5093 3414 Lic. Francisco Javier Ramirez Acuna Minister of the Interior	via fax: 011 52 951 511 5519 Lic. Evencio Nicolas Martinez Ramirez State Attorney General of Oaxaca
via fax: 011 52 951 502 0530 Lic. Ulises Ruiz Ortiz Governor of Oaxaca	

July 11, 2007

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply concerned for the safety of **Jesus Manuel Grijalva Mejía and Mayen Arellanes Cano**, lawyers working with the Comité de Liberación 25 de Noviembre, established after the November 25, 2006 clash between police and protesters in Oaxaca. We have written you six letters since September 2006 (Sep 13, Oct 26, Nov 21, Dec 26, Jan 26, Apr 25), asking that you quell the police violence against supporters of the People's Popular Assembly (APPO) and teachers' union (SNTE) that began in May 2006.

The same man telephoned Grijalva with death threats on four consecutive days in April and again on June 14; on April 14 he was interrogated by unidentified men wearing black uniforms. His colleague, Mayen Arellanes, has also been the victim of intimidation. On May 1 her home was watched by men inside a car with tinted windows; on May 28 she was verbally attacked by young men near her home and later that day near Oaxaca University.

Allowing intimidation and acts of violence to go unpunished is reprehensible. In light of the facts presented, we strongly urge you to

- call for a thorough and impartial investigation into the threats and harassment received by Jesus Manuel Grijalva Mejía in Oaxaca City and bring those responsible to justice;
- investigate the intimidation suffered by Mayen Arellanes Cano; and
- ensure that both receive protection, in accordance with their wishes.

As a consequence of your high position in Mexico, you have the authority and the responsibility to put an end to incidents such as those detailed above. We remind you that human rights defenders have a right to carry out their activities without any restriction or fear of reprisals, as described in the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. We would hope that your concern for the people you represent is even greater than ours, and that you will take immediate action to stem further practices such as those detailed above.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: Dr. Jose Luis Soberanes Fernandez , President of the National Human Rights Commission ~ via US mail
Red Oaxaquena de Derechos Humanos, Oaxaca Human Rights Network ~ via US mail
Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Embassy of Mexico in the US ~ via fax
Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr, U.S. Embassy in Mexico ~ via fax
William Duncan, Desk Officer for Mexico, US State Department ~ via fax
Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of American States ~ via fax
U.S. Senators Brown and Voinovich ~ via email
U.S. Representatives Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

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The following people hereby urge that you take action on this matter as indicated in this letter: