



## InterReligious Task Force on Central America

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via FAX: 01152 555 093 3414 <b>Lic. Fernando Francisco Gomez-Mont Urueta</b> Minister of the Interior of Mexico	via FAX: 011 52 555 346 0908 <b>Lic Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza</b> Attorney General of the Republic of Mexico
via FAX: 011 52 747 471 9956 <b>Lic Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo</b> Governor of Guerrero	

April 1, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We are glad to know of the dropping of all charges and the unconditional release on March 19 of four OPIM (Me'phaa [Tlapanecas] Indigenous People's Organization) members Manuel Cruz, Orlando Manzanarez, Natalio Ortega and Romualdo Santiago. They had been falsely imprisoned since April 2008 for the January 2008 murder of Alejandro Feliciano García. However, we are still extremely concerned about OPIM member **Raul Hernández** who remains in detention at Ayutla prison, Guerrero State. We believe that he, like the other four, is a prisoner of conscience and is likely to face an unfair trial. As we indicated in our letter of December 2, 2008, eyewitness testimonies that he was not present at the time of the murder have not been taken into consideration.

We have not received any further information on our letter of March 3, 2009 expressing concern about the death threat made against OPIM member Rafael Rodríguez Dircio by a supporter of the local cacique (political boss) in the community of El Camalote, Guerrero State, and on the harassment of OPIM founding member Otilia Eugenio Manuel.

We therefore **strongly urge** that you

- immediately and unconditionally release Raul Hernández, who, we believe is wrongfully accused of murder in reprisal for his legitimate work to promote Indigenous rights;
- ensure that the 100 OPIM members named by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights receive all the protection that the Commission has requested for them, as well as protection for Raul Hernández and the four prisoners of conscience who have been released.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Coordinator

CC: Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña "Tlachinollan" AC via US mail  
Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 728 1698  
Antonio O. Garza, Jr., US Ambassador to Mexico ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5207-0091  
Mary Stickles, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202.647.5752  
Paolo Carozza US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: (202)458-3992  
US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email  
US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

UA314/08Update Mexico

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