

via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414

Lic. Fernando Francisco Gomez-Mont Urueta
Minister of Interior, Mexico

via fax: 011 52 951 502 0530

Lic. Ulises Ruiz Ortiz
Governor of the State of Oaxaca, Mexico

May 13, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are extremely concerned about the harassment of human rights workers, including **Reyna Rivera, wife of Marcelino Coache Verano**, activist with the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (APPO). On April 25, Reyna Rivera received a text message made up entirely of question marks, signed C ALBERTO. A half-hour later she received a second threatening text message with the same signature. She called lawyer Alba Cruz Ramos, who has been assisting Marcelino Coache, to file a complaint about his abduction and torture on March 4 (cf our letter of April 3, 2009). On her way to meet Reyna Rivera, Alba Cruz received a text message from the same phone number and with the same signature, threatening her with death.

That same day, prominent human rights defender **Father Romualdo Francisco Mayren Pelaez**, who runs a church human rights organization, the Diocesan Commission of Peace and Justice, received a text message from the same source, threatening death to him and the following three human rights lawyers working on the case:

- **Alba Cruz Ramos;**
- **Yesica Sánchez Maya** of the women's rights organization Committee for Parliamentary Dialogue and Equity;
- **Beatriz Casas Arellanes** of the Bartólome Carrasco Human Rights Centre.

We strongly urge that you take these immediate steps:

- Give appropriate protection, in accordance with their wishes, to Marcelino Coache and his family;
- provide appropriate protection, in accordance with their wishes, to Alba Cruz Ramos, Yesica Sánchez Maya, Beatriz Casas Arellanes and Father Romualdo Francisco Mayren Pelaez, so they can carry out their legitimate activities without restrictions or fear of reprisals;
- order a prompt and impartial investigation into the mobile phone threats received on April 25 by Reyna Rivera, Alba Cruz Ramos, and Father Romualdo Francisco Mayren Pelaez, and bring those responsible to justice

Thank you for your prompt attention to this situation.

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: Centro de Derechos Humanos "Bartolome Carrasco Briseno" ~ via US mail
Comision de Derechos Humanos de Oaxaca ~ via fax: 011 52 95 1503 0220
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 ~ via fax: (202)458-3992
US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email
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The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter:

