

Via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414
Lic. Juan Camilo Mourino Terrazo
Minister of Interior of Mexico

Via fax: 011 52 747 494 2981
Lic. Eduardo Murueta Urrutia
Attorney General of Guerrero

June 25, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned that indigenous human rights defenders from Guerrero State continue to be at high risk of attacks, in spite of orders by the Inter-American Court for Human Rights that they should be given protection by the Mexican authorities.

On June 5, **Rommel Cain Chacan Pale**, received a telephone death threat. He is a lawyer with an independent police watchdog organization, Civic Police Monitor, based in Tlapa de Comonfort, in the Montaña region of Guerrero. It was co-founded by Tlachinollan Human Rights Center and other Mexican organizations. He and **Matilde Pérez Romero**, another lawyer, were in a meeting with two representatives of Guerrero state judicial police, when he received a call from a public telephone at the office. Someone who sounded like a young man told him, ". . . we are watching you and your family . . ."

Both Rommel Cain Chacan Pale and Matilde Pérez Romero have worked on numerous complaints against police and military operating in the region, including complaints of extortion, arbitrary detention and use of excessive force.

On April 30, the Inter-American Court for Human Rights ordered the Mexican authorities to provide appropriate protection measures to 107 members of human rights organizations in the region. This included the Tlapaneco Indigenous People's Organization, the Organization for the Future of Mixtec Indigenous Peoples and Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre, all based around the Montaña region of Guerrero State. Some measures have been taken, but these have been very few and insufficient to guarantee effective protection so that human rights defenders can continue to carry out their legitimate activities.

Earlier this year we called your attention to the abduction, torture and killing of two indigenous rights activists (see letter of 2/12/2009) and threats, harassment and unfair trials on spurious criminal charges to others (see letter of 3/3/2009).

Therefore, we **again urge you to**

- ensure that Rommel Cain Chacan Pale and Matilde Pérez Romero receive adequate protection measures, in accordance with their wishes;
- order a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into the death threat received by Rommel Cain Chacan Pale on June 6 and bring those responsible to justice;
- implement without delay, appropriate and comprehensive protection measures for human rights activists in the Montaña region of Guerrero state, in accordance with their wishes and according to the requests of the Inter-American Court for Human Rights;
- recognize the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders and their right to carry out their activities without obstacles or fear of reprisals as recognized in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

CC: Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mexico ~via fax: 011.52.55.3686.6028
Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña "Tlachinollan" AC, human rights organization in Guerrero ~ 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 and US Representatives Bocchieri, 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: