

via fax 011 52 55 5093 3414 <b>Lic. Fernando Francisco Gomez-Mont Urueta</b> Minister of the Interior of Mexico	via fax 011 52 747 471 9801 <b>Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo</b> Governor of Guerrero, Mexico
via fax 011 52 747 494 2999 <b>Lic. Eduardo Murueta Urrutia</b> Attorney General of Guerrero, Mexico	

July 3, 2009

Dear Sirs:

Once again we are writing to express grave concern for the safety of members of indigenous rights organizations in Guerrero state. On June 24 as **Margarita Martin De Las Nieves, Santiago Ponce Lola and Modesta Laureano Petra** traveled from the municipality of Ayutla de los Libres to their home in the community of La Cortina, a man dressed in black, his face covered with a black bandana, fired at them with a shotgun. Fortunately, all three, who are active members of the Organization for the Future of the Mixteco People (OPFM), escaped unhurt.

Earlier in the day, Margarita Martin de las Nieves and Guadalupe Castro, whose husbands, human rights defenders Raul Lucas Lucía and Manuel Ponce Rosas, were abducted, tortured and killed in February 2009 (see our letter of March 4), had met with a state police official to arrange protection measures and for a police escort to accompany them. At that meeting, a state police official agreed to provide, starting that day, periodic patrols outside their homes and escorts when the women traveled outside their communities. However, no police presence was forthcoming and attempts to contact the police after the attack on June 24 met with repeated failure.

This incident is a further example of the deteriorating situation for human rights workers in Guerrero. Therefore, we **strongly urge** that you

- implement and strengthen the protection measures for Margarita Martin de las Nieves and Guadalupe Castro that have already been agreed to by federal and state authorities;
- implement effective protection measures for all other human rights defenders for whom the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has requested protection;
- investigate and punish the failure to provide protection measures for Margarita Martin de las Nieves, in spite of specific agreements made on June 24;
- investigate the attempt on the lives of Margarita Martin de las Nieves, Santiago Ponce Lola and Modesta Laureano, and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Coordinator

cc: Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs ~ via fax: 011 52 55 3686 6028  
Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña "Tlachinollan" AC ~ via US mail  
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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

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