

Via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 <b>Lic. Fernando Francisco Gomez-Mont</b> Minister of the Interior of Mexico	Via Fax: 011 52 747 47 74 71 03-78 <b>Lic. Juan Alarcon Hernandez</b> President of Human Rights Commission of State of Guerrero, Mexico
Via fax: 011 52 747 471 9956 <b>Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo</b> Governor of the State of Guerrero, Mexico	

February 12, 2010

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are deeply distressed at the death threats and surveillance of members of Community Development Workshop (TADECO), a community development and human rights organization in Chilpancingo, capital of Guerrero State. TADECO offers community social and economic development training for rural communities in central Guerrero. In the last few years they have also been working on cases of abductions and killings in the state. They have helped set up the Committee of Relatives and Friends of Kidnapped, Disappeared or Murdered People.

On December 19, 2009, a mobile phone was stolen from a TADECO worker. On December 25, one of the workers, **Isabel Rosales**, received a text message on her mobile phone, saying, "Take care, we are watching you". On December 27 she received another message: "Listen. . . I know your movements, one of these days you'll be part of the mural of the disappeared. Yours, the family."

On December 27, **Miriam Altamirano**, another TADECO worker, received a text message which described the clothes of Isabel Rosales, who was walking a few blocks away. On the same day another worker, **Javier Monroy**, received this text message: "We will get the one that will hurt you most." All the messages came from the stolen mobile. Since the beginning of January 2010, workers with TADECO have been noticing men watching their office or following them in cars and have reported the threats to the authorities. However, no protection measures have been put in place.

These incidents are continuing examples of human rights defenders in Mexico facing threats, attacks, politically motivated criminal charges and imprisonment for leading protests, promoting respect for human rights or speaking out against abuses committed by criminal gangs. Although the government of Mexico has agreed to provide protection measures ordered by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, substantial efforts have not been made to investigate cases of abuses. Impunity is the general rule, leaving open the possibility of further attacks.

Because we believe the lives of TADECO workers are in imminent danger we **strongly urge** that you

- provide immediate and effective protection measures for all members of TADECO, in accordance with their wishes, so they can carry out their work without fear;
- conduct a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats and surveillance against members of TADECO, with the results made public and those found responsible brought to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

cc: Taller de Desarrollo Comunitario ~ via email  
 Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202-728-1698  
 Ambassador Carlos Pascual, U.S. Embassy in Mexico ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5080-2834  
 Mary Stickles, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-5752  
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202-458-3650  
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email  
 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:**