

via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 Lic. Fernando Francisco Gomez Mont Minister of the Interior of Mexico	via fax: 011 52 747 472 2328 Mtro. Albertico Guinto Sierra Attorney General of Guerrero, Mexico
via fax: 011 52 747 471 9956 Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo Governor of Guerrero, Mexico	

April 3, 2010

Dear Sirs:

We continue to be extremely concerned for **Obtilia Eugenio Manuel**, President of the Me'phaa Indigenous People's Organization (OPIM) because we believe her life is in danger. On March 6 she received a written death threat at the OPIM offices in Ayutla de los Libres, Guerrero state, which read: "Obtilia, calm down...Don't go around making denunciations against the government. I know you're presenting complaints at every level. Calm down. When we want to we can get you. Don't believe you're made of iron, bullets still go through. We are protected by the government, federal state and local. Don't fool around, we are close by." On the same day, she and her colleagues observed a man overtly watching the OPIM offices, including her arrivals and departures and taking photographs on his mobile phone.

As founder and director of OPIM, Obtilia Eugenio Manuel has been the target of numerous threats, acts of intimidation and surveillance; (cf our letter of Mar 3 2009). In April 2009 the Inter American Court of Human Rights issued a protection order on behalf of Obtilia Eugenia Manuel, her husband and her children, other members of the OPIM, and other human rights defenders in Guerrero. Some protection measures were made available, such as mobile phones, but those behind the threats and attacks have never been identified or accountable.

This month the Inter-American Court of Human Rights will consider the case of Ines Fernández, an indigenous woman raped by soldiers in 2002, whose case has never been effectively investigated. We believe that Obtilia Eugenio Manuel is in particular danger at this time because she has supported the campaign for justice for Ines Fernandez from the beginning and may be called as a witness.

We **strongly urge** that you

- provide effective protection for Obtilia Eugenio Manuel and other OPIM members in line with their wishes and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights protection order;
- conduct a full investigation into the threat against Obtilia Eugenio Manuel and other members of OPIM and the surveillance of their offices, make the findings public, and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña "Tlachinollan" AC ~ via e-mail
Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202-728-1698
Carlos Pascual, US Ambassador to 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
José de Jesús Orozco Henríquez, Mexico member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202-458-3650
US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
US Representatives Boccheri, 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: