

via fax: 011 52 55 5346 0908  
**Sr. Jesús Murillo Karam**  
Attorney General of Mexico

via fax 011 52 55 5093 3414  
**Sr. Miguel Angel Osorio Chong**  
Minister of the Interior of Mexico

December 21, 2014

Dear Sirs:

We are very disturbed at the killing of migrant rights defenders Adrián and Wilson (their surnames are not being made public as a precautionary measure for their family), members of the Collective You Are Us, in Tequixquiac, Mexico State. On November 23 at approximately 5:30p.m. Adrián and Wilson were shot at point-blank range as they sat in their vehicle outside Adrián's family home. Adrián died instantly from 3 shots in the temple, chest and leg. Wilson was shot 5 times—in the chin, chest, lung, stomach and hand; he died the following morning in a hospital.

Adrián and Wilson, a migrant from Honduras, provided food and humanitarian assistance to migrants travelling through Mexico as they stop in the Tequixquiac and Huehuetoca regions. They accompanied migrants to file complaints of violations or abuse suffered along their route. They gave interviews to the media about the conditions faced by migrants travelling through Mexico and lobbied the authorities, urging them to assign police patrols to the corridor between Lechería and Bojoy, an area known as "death's passage" (*el paso de la muerte*) because of the activity of organized criminal gangs. Adrián had been doing this migrant assistance work for the past six years; Wilson for two.

In February, Wilson witnessed a criminal gang trying to attack a group of 20 migrants at the trash dump in Tequixquiac, where many migrants gather to climb on board the passing trains as they reduce speed to change tracks. Because of his witness to this crime, the government granted Wilson humanitarian leave to remain in the country; he received his permission papers 20 days prior to his murder.

After February, threats to migrant rights defenders increased. In order to lower their profile, Adrián and Wilson stopped their daily journeys to attend to migrants at the rail tracks. On April 5, a group of eight migrant rights defenders, including members of Colectivo Ustedes Somos Nosotros, were shot at by an unknown man as they prepared to offer food, medicine and clothing to migrants arriving on a freight train outside of Mexico City. Despite the danger, Adrián and Wilson began providing assistance again in May. Through the Collective You Are Us, Adrián and Wilson requested protection from the municipal authorities, who said that they would provide a patrol to accompany them. However, this support was not consistent.

Following the recent killings, the Collective You Are Us was informed that the police have no line of investigation and, as of early this month, members had no contact from the Protection Mechanism concerning a renewed risk analysis or increased precautionary measures.

We strongly condemn the assassination of human rights defenders Adrián and Wilson and **strongly urge that you**

- carry out a thorough, impartial and immediate investigation into the killings of Adrián and Wilson, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- take all necessary measures to guarantee the security of the members of Collective You Are Us and all human rights defenders attending to the humanitarian needs of migrants traveling through Mexico

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Co-Coordinator

copies: Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 728 1698  
Earl Anthony Wayne, US Ambassador to Mexico ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5080-2834  
Chris Andino, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via email: [andinocl@state.gov](mailto:andinocl@state.gov)  
James Cavallaro, Rapporteur for Mexico, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: (202)458-3992  
US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

Frontline 12/5/14\_Mexico

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