

Via fax: 011 52 95 1501 8110 ext. 40068

Lic. Gabino Cué Monteagudo

Governor of Oaxaca State, Mexico

Via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414

Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong

Minister of the Interior of Mexico

December 22, 2014

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are writing to express our deep concern for the safety and well-being of members of the Popular Assembly for the Community of Juchiteco (APPJ), an organization of indigenous peoples in Juchitán, located in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Oaxaca State. They oppose construction of wind farms that were initiated without their consent.

On December 4, APPJ member **Maria Isabel Jiménez Salinas** reported being followed by a person on a motorcycle while she was accompanying **Mariano Gómez López**, an APPJ spokesperson and legal representative, to her home. She walked into an alley to evade the motorcyclist. After returning home, she heard gunshots aimed at her front door, window and an alleyway next to her home. A neighbor reported seeing a man picking up remnants of the bullets. The same evening, Mariano Gómez López reported that an unknown car with tinted windows was parked outside his home for about 10 minutes, with the engine running. Earlier he reported seeing two unknown men ride past his home on a bicycle. One was wearing a cap and the other had his head covered with a scarf.

These events happened immediately after an intense formal consultation meeting for the proposed building of a new wind farm in the area. The proposal was approved by a majority of the community members, but a minority of residents requested more time to be able to properly analyze the project and its potential effects on their community's agriculture and land. After the consultation meeting, an altercation started between the two groups.

On December 5, **María del Carmen Ruíz Martínez**, an APPJ member, received a threatening phone call warning her and her colleagues not to attend consultation meetings about the proposed wind farm.

These are the latest incidents of threats and harassment of those defending the environment and indigenous rights on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. APPJ members have suffered the burning of their protest camp and threatening phone calls to Mariano Gómez López and María Isabel Jiménez Salinas (cf our letters of Feb 21, Mar 23, Sep 26).

Based on the facts above, we **strongly urge** you to

- guarantee the safety of María del Carmen Ruíz Martínez, Mariano Gómez López, Maria Isabel Jiménez Salinas and all other APPJ members opposing the construction of the wind farm in the Tehuantepec Isthmus, according to their wishes;
- carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the instances of intimidation and harassment against Mariano Gómez López and Maria Isabel Jiménez Salinas, and bring those responsible to justice;
- ensure that any consultation process in the Tehuantepec Isthmus is carried out according to international standards (including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), on the basis of the free, prior and informed consent of all members of indigenous communities affected, including reliable, accurate and accessible information on the impacts of the project.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Co-Coordinator

copies: CODIGO-DH ~ via email contacto@codigodh.org

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: andinoc@state.gov

James Cavallaro, Rapporteur for Mexico, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: (202)458-3992

Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: (202)458-3650

US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

UA 311/14 Mexico

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