

URGENT ACTION

NEW BREAK-IN AT WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

The offices of Mexican women's rights organization **Consortio Oaxaca** have been broken into again, and the staff have been threatened. Their human rights work for women could be put at risk.

Consortio Oaxaca staff went to work on 3 March, and found that their office had been broken into. Some laptop computers and case information had been stolen. A manual on the protection of human rights defenders was left out on clear display and personal photos of family members of staff were spread out on a desk. **Consortio Oaxaca** staff believe this was intended to threaten them. After they reported the crime, the The Office for the Prosecution of Crimes of Social Transcendence (Fiscalía de Delitos de Transcendencia Social) came to inspect the office. Investigations into the previous break-in, which happened exactly four months ago, have produced no results.

During February, **Consortio Oaxaca** received repeated harassing phone calls from a woman who swore at them. Staff were forced to disconnect the telephone line for some hours/days. A car parked outside the office for around two hours on 17 February. The men inside later said they were state police from the Ministry for Public Security (Secretaría de Seguridad Pública). On 21 February, a **Consortio Oaxaca** staff member reported having been followed by a man on a motorbike who asked for directions and continued following her.

Consortio Oaxaca and the Human Rights Commissioner have filed formal complaints with the State Attorney General's Office. The Oaxaca state government's Human Rights Commissioner has asked the Public Security Ministry to guarantee the security of **Consortio Oaxaca** staff, but the ministry has not done anything.

Please write immediately in Spanish, English or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to provide protection to workers at the **Consortio Oaxaca**, in accordance with their wishes, to enable them to continue their human rights work;
- Calling on them to order a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the recent and previous break-in at the office of **Consortio Oaxaca** and intimidation of staff in recent months and bring those responsible to justice;
- Reminding them of their responsibility to ensure that human rights defenders can carry out their legitimate activities without fear of reprisals.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 APRIL 2012 TO:

Oaxaca State Attorney

Lic. Manuel de Jesús López López
Centro administrativo del Poder
Ejecutivo y
Judicial General Porfirio Díaz
Edificios Jesús "Chu" Rasgado y Alvaro
Carrillo, Oaxaca de Juárez
Oaxaca, México
Fax: +52 951 501 6900 (dial 20635 after
automatic answer)
Email: procuradoroaxaca@hotmail.com

Salutation: Dear Attorney

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Alejandro Poiré Romero
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez
Delegación Cuauhtémoc
México D.F., C.P.06600, México
Fax: +52 55 5093 3414 (Please keep
trying)
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx

Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:

Consortio Oaxaca

Email: yesica@consorciooaxaca.org.mx

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 329/11. Further information:

www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/071/2011/en

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Consortio Oaxaca (full name Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca Asociacion Civil) is a human rights organization which campaigns for women's rights such as equality, non-discrimination and an end to gender-based violence. The organization also provides women who have been victims of violence with legal advice and support. The organization has also campaigned for women's sexual and reproductive rights. Human rights activists in Mexico frequently face threats and attacks in reprisal for their legitimate human rights work. Those responsible are virtually never held to account, generating a climate of impunity. Despite improved commitments by the Oaxacan authorities to protect human rights defenders, intimidation and threats have continued.

Name: Consorcio Oaxaca

Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 329/11 Index: AMR 41/017/2012 Issue Date: 9 March 2012