

URGENT ACTION

DEATH THREAT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER

Human rights defender and lawyer, Vidulfo Rosales Sierra, from Guerrero State, Mexico received an anonymous death threat on 4 May. His life and those of his colleagues are at risk.

On 4 May, **Vidulfo Rosales Sierra**, legal coordinator at the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre (Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, "Tlachinollan"), received a death threat. The anonymous threat was typed and delivered to the office of the Network of Civil Human Rights Organisations of Guerrero (Red Guerrerense de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos), of which the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre is a member.

The threat made reference to the human rights work that Vidulfo Rosales Sierra has carried out, and in particular, to the work he has done denouncing abuses by police and militaries. On 3 May, Vidulfo Rosales Sierra and his colleagues had been reviewing the cases brought against the alleged perpetrators of the killing of two students by security forces at a demonstration in January 2012. They had visited the offices of state authorities and the school attended by the dead students. This is one of the cases referred to in the threat. The Mexican government is still under obligation to implement the protection order issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to guarantee the safety of Vidulfo Rosales Sierra and other human rights defenders in Guerrero State.

The threat contained the following message; "Vidulfo. You little asshole lawyer defender of vandals and guerrillas stop fucking about, shut up or we will send you back home in pieces. We are not playing, hold back from saying shit or you will die. Do you think you are a big deal? You little shit lawyer, stop defaming the authorities, you already owe us many times over, you get involved in everything, La Parota, the so-called raped women, and now with the Ayotzinapa vandals. Shut up or start getting your flowers together because we are following you now we know what you do and where you go. You are going to die ha ha ha. Yours, The Law"

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling for the effective protection of Vidulfo Rosales Sierra and other members of the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre in accordance with their wishes;
- Calling on the authorities to investigate the death threat received by Vidulfo Rosales Sierra, ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 4 JULY 2012 TO:

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 3416
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx

Salutation: Dear Minister

Governor of Guerrero state

Lic. Ángel Heladio Aguirre Rivero
Gobernador del Estado de Guerrero
Palacio de Gobierno Edificio Centro 2do.
Piso, Col. Ciudad de los Servicios
C.P. 39074 Chilpancingo
Guerrero, México
Fax: +52 747 471 9956
Email:

secretariaparticulargb@guerrero.gob.mx

Salutation: Dear Governor

And copies to:

Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre
tlachinollan.difusion@gmail.com

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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre has represented various individuals who have raised formal complaints of human rights violations committed by members of the military, Guerrero State authorities and Federal police. They have been representing communities who oppose the “La Parota” hydro-electric power project in the rural part of Acapulco in Guerrero State. They have also worked on the cases of Inés Fernández Ortega and Valentina Rosendo Cantú, who were both raped by members of the military in 2002. In April 2009, as a result of their work on these last two cases, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ordered the State to protect Vidulfo Rosales Sierra, the Tlachinollan team and other organisations involved in bringing the cases against the military.

More recently, the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre has been working on the case of Ayotzinapa, which involves defending students who have had charges brought against them as a result of student protests in Guerrero State in January 2012, as well as bringing cases against public officials accused of extrajudicial executions, torture and arbitrary detentions during the clash between student protestors from the “Raul Isidro Burgos” Rural Teacher Training School and the security forces in Ayotzinapa, Guerrero State, in January 2012.

Human rights activists in Mexico frequently face threats and attacks in reprisal for their legitimate human rights work. Those responsible are hardly ever held to account. Despite improved commitments by the authorities and the newly approved protection mechanism for the protection of defenders and journalists, intimidation and threats have continued.

The text of the threat in Spanish was as follows: “Vidulfo. Abogadito pendejos defensor de vándalos y guerrilleros deja de estar chingando, callate el hocico o te vamos a mandar a tu tierra en pedazos. No estamos jugando no sigas diciendo pendejadas o te va a morir. ¿Crees que eres la gran cosa? Licenciadito de mierda, deja de difamar a las autoridades, ya nos debes varias en todo te metes la parota, las disque mujeres violadas y ahora con los vándalos ayotzinapos callate o vete juntando tus flores por que lla t stamos siguiendo sabemos que aces y donde andas. Te va a mori te vas a morir te vas a morir ja ja ja. Att. La Ley”.

Name: Vidulfo Rosales Sierra

Gender m/f: Male

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