

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVISTS AT RISK AFTER COLLEAGUES MURDERED

Several political activists in Mexico are at risk after pushing for justice in regards to the recent case of the abduction and killing of three of their colleagues.

On 30 May members of the Popular Unit (Unidad Popular, UP) **Arturo Hernández Cardona, Héctor Arroyo Delgado, Efraín Amates Luna, Gregorio Dante Cervantes, Ángel Román Ramírez, Nicolás Mendoza Villa, Félix Rafael Bandera Román and Jimmy Castejón** were last seen outside Iguala, Guerrero state. They had been taking part in a protest against the local government. Other members of the UP and relatives have accused the local government of involvement in their abduction, highlighting a complaint by UP members against local authorities and a dispute between federal police and protesters that happened shortly before the disappearances.

On June 3 the bodies of Arturo Hernández Cardona, Ángel Román Ramírez, Félix Rafael Bandera Román were found blindfolded and with apparent signs of torture on a nearby highway. Four of the other five missing men reportedly managed to escape their captors and have gone into hiding. An investigation by Guerrero State Attorney General's Office is underway, but the suspected involvement of local officials in the abductions and killings has led UP activists to urge for the investigation to be carried out by the Federal Attorney General's Office (PGR).

On 2 and 4 June UP members reported being watched and followed, on two separate occasions, by men in vehicles. On 8 June, a UP leader, Justino Osores Narciso, received an anonymous note warning the group to stop its activities. On 17 June the wife of Arturo Hernández Cardona and a UP activist, Sofía Lorena Mendoza, reported being followed by suspicious cars on route to a meeting with government officials. On 19 June, Bertoldo Martínez Cruz, a local political activist linked to the UP who had been in contact with the survivors, received a threatening phone call at his home.

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

- Urging authorities to ensure the safety of all other members of the UP and their families, including Justino Osores Narciso, Sofía Lorena Mendoza and Bertoldo Martínez Cruz;
- Calling for a full investigation into the threats and intimidation against UP activists and supporters and for those responsible to be held to account;
- Calling on the federal authorities to carry out a full, swift and impartial investigation into the abduction and killing of Arturo Hernández Cardona, Félix Rafael Bandera Román, Ángel Román Ramírez, and ensure the safety of the survivors Héctor Arroyo Delgado, Efraín Amates Luna, Gregorio Dante Cervantes and Nicolás Mendoza Villa, and for the results to be made public and those responsible are held to account;

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 08 AUGUST 2013 TO:

Attorney General of the Republic

Jesús Murillo Karam
Paseo de la reforma 211-213
Col. Cuauhtémoc, México D.F.
C.P. 06500, México
Fax: +52 55 5346 0908 (keep trying, and ask for "fax")
Email: ofproc@pgr.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

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 0908 (keep trying, and ask for "fax")

Email:
secretariaparticulargb@guerrero.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Governor

And copies to:

Local NGO
Red Solidaria Década Contra la
Impunidad A.C.
Email: rddhorg@gmail.com

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The UP is a recently formed organisation in Iguala, Guerrero state which campaigns and lobbies for the social projects and resources for local Indigenous communities. The UP has also supported the movement of teachers in Guerrero state.

Arturo Hernández Cardona campaigned for local Indigenous Peoples in Guerrero State for around 15 years, including justice in the case of El Charco massacre in 1998. Arturo Hernandez Cardona and other UP members had filed a formal complaint on 29 May against the mayor and other municipal authorities for corruption and harassment of the UP members.

Name: Arturo Hernández Cardona (m), Félix Rafael Bandera Román (m), Ángel Román Ramírez (m), Héctor Arroyo Delgado (m), Nicolás Mendoza Villa (m), Efraín Amates Luna (m) and Gregorio Dante Cervantes (m), other members of the UP and their families, including Justino Osores Narciso (m), Sofía Lorena Mendoz (f) and Bertoldo Martínez Cruz (m).

Gender m/f: both

UA: 168/13 Index: AMR 41/035/2013 Issue Date: 27 June 2013