



TRANSFORMING PAIN INTO HOPE
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE AMERICAS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS NOW

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



FRAY TOMÁS GONZÁLEZ, MEXICO

Human rights defenders in the Americas play a vital role in exposing and combating human rights violations. Many have paid a high price for their courageous efforts to break cycles of injustice, discrimination and impunity. In the past few years, hundreds have been persecuted and attacked. Despite the lack of effective protection for themselves and their families and widespread impunity, they continue their struggle – transforming pain into hope.

Fray Tomás González runs “La 72” migrants’ shelter in Tenosique, Mexico. He is founder and president of the Usumacinta Human Rights Centre, both in Tabasco State. Every year, tens of thousands of irregular migrants travel through Mexico. They risk kidnap, rape and murder at the hands of criminal gangs who often act in collusion with authorities. Human rights defenders like Fray Tomás put their lives at risk to provide shelter and protection to migrants.

Support those who defend the rights of migrants by calling on the Mexican authorities to recognize and support their work, ensure full investigation of threats against them, and guarantee effective protection for those working in the shelters.

TAKE ACTION NOW

SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE AMERICAS

Image: Fray Tomás González, director of shelter “La 72”, leads a protest in Tenosique, Mexico, April 2012. © Prometeo Lucero
Index: AMR 41/061/2012 English

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Dear Governor,

I am very concerned about the high levels of harassment, risks and difficulties faced by Fray Tomás González and the staff of “La 72” migrants’ shelter in Tenosique, Tabasco state.

In a context of widespread human rights abuses against irregular migrants travelling through Mexico, migrants’ rights defenders like Fray Tomás play a vital role in providing shelter and protection to migrants. Those working in “La 72” continue to face harassment and intimidation.

I call on you to:

- publicly recognize and support the crucial work of Fray Tomás and others in “La 72”
- take all necessary measures to ensure they can continue working safely, by providing protection and ending impunity for human rights abuses.

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____

Country: _____

**Gobernador del Estado de Tabasco
Palacio de Gobierno
Independencia número 2
Colonia Centro, Villahermosa, 86000
Estado de Tabasco
Mexico**

Index: AMR 41/061/2012 English

Image: Migrants walking the 50km from the border with Guatemala to Tenosique, Tabasco, Mexico, March 2012, where they will find the “La 72” migrants’ shelter. © Amnesty International (Photo: Ricardo Ramirez Arriola)
Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, United Kingdom
amnesty.org