

# URGENT ACTION

## PROTESTER'S FAMILY AT RISK AFTER KILLING

**The family of Mariano Abarca Roblero and other environmental protesters in Chicomuselo, southern Mexico, are at risk after Mariano Abarca was shot and killed in front of his home. Before his killing, he and members of his family are believed to have been repeatedly threatened.**

On 27 November, **Mariano Abarca Roblero**, a male human rights defender and leading member of the Mexican Network of People Affected by Mining (Red Mexicana de Afectados por la Minería, REMA), was shot three times by a man riding a motorbike. At the time of the attack, Mariano Abarca Roblero was standing in front of his house in Chicomuselo municipality, Chiapas state, talking with a neighbour, also a member of REMA who was injured but survived the attack.

Days before his death, Mariano Abarca Roblero had filed a complaint with the State Attorney General's Office (Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado) relating to a death threat he had received in August. According to the complaint, a man had claimed he would "pump lead into him" ("quebrar[le] la madre a plomazos") for leading the protests. The PGJE has opened an investigation into the murder of Mariano Abarca Roblero.

Mariano Abarca Roblero and other activists with REMA had set up a roadblock in June to protest at a mining company operating in the area, which they believe is polluting and damaging the environment. They blocked one of the two access roads to the mine. On 17 August, Mariano Abarca Roblero was arrested at the site of the protest by Chiapas state police officers without an explanation or a warrant. He was held in "pre-charge" detention (*arraigo*) for his participation in the protests but he was released unconditionally on 25 August because there was no evidence that the protest in which Mariano Abarca Roblero was participating was violent or threatened public order. His arrest took place days before members of REMA held a regional meeting in Chicomuselo for environmentalist activists.

### PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the federal and state authorities to provide immediate and effective protection for Mariano Abarca Roblero's family, witnesses to his murder, and members of REMA in Chicomuselo, in accordance with their wishes;
- urging the authorities to take immediate steps to expedite a thorough and impartial investigation into the killing of Mariano Abarca Roblero on 27 November in Chicomuselo, to ensure the findings are made public and those responsible brought to account;
- reminding the authorities that local activists who campaign for respect for human rights, including the provision of basic services in their communities, are human rights defenders protected under the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders which recognizes the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders and obliges states to ensure they can carry out their activities without obstacles or fear of reprisals.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 JANUARY 2009 TO:

#### Minister of Interior

Lic. Fernando F. Gómez-Mont Urueta  
Secretaría de Gobernación, Bucareli  
99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez, Del.  
Cuauhtémoc, México D.F.,  
C.P.06600, MEXICO

**Fax: +52 55 5093 3414**

**E-mail: [secretario@segob.gob.mx](mailto:secretario@segob.gob.mx)**

**Salutation: Señor Secretario/Dear Minister**

#### Chiapas Attorney General

Mtro. Raciél López Salazar  
Procurador General de Justicia del  
Estado de Chiapas  
Libramiento no. 2010, Col. El Bosque,  
Tuxtla Gutiérrez, MEXICO, CP 29049

**Fax: +52 961 6165724**

**Email: [raciel.lopez@mje.chiapas.gob.mx](mailto:raciel.lopez@mje.chiapas.gob.mx)**

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General / Señor  
Procurador**

#### Governor of Chiapas

Lic. Juan José Sabines Guerrero  
Gobernador del Estado de Chiapas  
Palacio de Gobierno,  
1º piso, Col. Centro, C.P. 29000, Tuxtla  
Gutiérrez, Chiapas, MEXICO

**Fax: +52 961 618 8050, ext.: 21122**

**Email: [juansabines@chiapas.gob.mx](mailto:juansabines@chiapas.gob.mx)**

**Salutation: Dear Governor/Señor Gobernador**

**COPIES TO:** Human Rights Organization –Otros mundos, Francisco I. Madero 49, Barrio Guadalupe. San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas 29200 México. **Also send copies to diplomatic representatives of Mexico accredited to your country.** Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Human rights defenders in Mexico face attacks, threats, politically motivated criminal charges and imprisonment for leading protests or promoting respect for human rights. The government has agreed to provide protection measures ordered by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to several human rights defenders, but some have reported that no effective protection has been provided. Substantial efforts have not been made to investigate cases of abuses against human rights defenders; impunity is the general rule in these cases, leaving open the possibility of further attacks.

Another environmental activist protesting against a mining company in Guerrero State, was shot and wounded in September 2009, see UA 241/09, AMR 41/047/2009, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/047/2009/en>

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