

URGENT ACTION

INDIGENOUS LAND ACTIVISTS THREATENED

An Indigenous family of land activists received a death threat on 27 February. The family are struggling to preserve their land against the construction of a wind farm in Juchitán de Zaragoza, Oaxaca state, southern Mexico.

On 27 February an unknown man told smallholding farmer **Mariano Martínez Martínez**: “If you all do not get out of here, we will kill you all right here” (*Si no se quitan de aquí, aquí mismo los vamos a matar*). Mariano Martínez Martínez, his father **Pedro Martínez Guerra**, and their family have been guarding the family’s land in Juchitán de Zaragoza to prevent construction work of a wind farm being developed in the area by a natural gas company. This family filed a formal complaint regarding the threat at the State Public Prosecutor’s Office in Juchitán.

Pedro Martínez Guerra and his family have been actively watching over their land to prevent further intrusions by those carrying out construction of the wind farm. An access road and a transmission tower were recently built on the family’s land without legal permission. The family has lodged a complaint against the unauthorised construction work at the Juchitán Prosecutor’s Office. Some local authorities have supported the development of the wind farm without upholding the rights of other members of the Indigenous communities affected to ensure that free, prior and informed consent is obtained.

On 24 February a person who claimed the land belonged to him asserted that the lands had been leased to the natural gas company. He then threatened Pedro Martínez Guerra and his family who were guarding the land, stating that he would call the police if they did not leave. When the police arrived, Pedro Martínez Guerra proved to them with legal documents that the land belonged to him. The police did not take any action and left.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to guarantee the safety of Pedro Martínez Guerra, his son Mariano Martínez Martínez and the rest of their family who are peacefully defending their land against the construction of wind farms;
- Urging them to carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the death threat received by Mariano Martínez Martínez and to bring those responsible to justice;
- Urging them to ensure that the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous communities affected by the wind farms is obtained on the basis of reliable and accurate information on the impacts of the project.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 17 APRIL 2014 TO:

Governor of Oaxaca State

Lic. Gabino Cué Monteagudo
Plaza de la Constitución, Centro
Histórico
Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca, C.P. 68000
Fax: +52 95 1501 8100, ext. 40068
Email: spagoboaxaca@gmail.com
**Salutation: Dear Governor / Sr.
Gobernador**

Minister of the Interior

Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, col. Juárez, Cuauhtémoc,
Distrito Federal, México, C.P. 6600
Fax: +52 55 5093 3414
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx
**Salutation: Dear Minister / Sr.
Secretario**

And copies to:

Local organization APIIDTT

Email: asamblea.istmo@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

Mariano Martínez Martínez, his father Pedro Martínez Guerra and other members of his family are part of the Assembly of Indigenous Peoples of the Isthmus in Defence of Land and Territory (Asamblea de Pueblos Indígenas del Istmo en Defensa de la Tierra y el Territorio, APIIDTT). APIIDTT is a group which has protested against the construction of wind farms around the Tehuantepec Isthmus, Oaxaca state, without effectively consulting the local Indigenous people.

On 28 July 2009, Pedro Martínez Guerra won the cancellation of the 30-year lease contract he had signed with the natural gas company. Many other lease contracts were also cancelled at that time.

Some members of the Indigenous communities living in Oaxaca State are opposed to the wind farm being built on their land. They argue that there has not been an adequate consultation process to obtain their free, prior and informed consent in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and they are concerned about the impact of the construction on their agriculture and land. As a result of their opposition, they have been subject to threats and intimidation for several months.

Name: Pedro Martínez Guerra (m), Mariano Martínez Martínez (m) and the rest of their family
Gender m/f: both

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