

URGENT ACTION

IMPRISONED INDIGENOUS RIGHTS DEFENDER AT RISK

Prisoner of conscience Raúl Hernández has received threats from fellow inmates in Ayutla prison, Guerrero state, Mexico. The indigenous rights defender's security is at risk.

On 7 June, imprisoned indigenous rights defender Raúl Hernández witnessed an argument between two inmates with whom he shares a cell in Ayutla prison. The argument led to one of the inmates being beaten, which the injured inmate reported to the head of security of the prison. Raúl Hernández was later called upon by the head of security to act as a witness for the incident.

As a consequence of giving testimony on this incident, Raúl Hernández has received several threats from inmates. One inmate told Raúl Hernández "why are you being a snitch, you feel so big because you're getting help from the human rights people, now you'll see the consequences" (porque andas de chismoso, te sientes cabron porque te apoyan los de derechos humanos, ahora atente las consecuencias).

On 14 June, Raúl Hernández told the head of security about the threats he had received and asked for help to guarantee his security in the prison but no action has been taken.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to provide effective protection for Raúl Hernández, in consultation with him and according to his wishes,
- Reminding the authorities that Raúl Hernández is a prisoner of conscience, wrongfully accused of murder in reprisal for his legitimate work to promote indigenous rights and urging them to immediately and unconditionally release him;

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 AUGUST 2010 TO:

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Fernando Francisco Gómez-Mont
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

Federal Attorney General

Arturo Chávez Chávez
Procuraduría General de la República
Av. Paseo de la Reforma nº 211-213,
Col. Cuauhtémoc, Del. Cuauhtémoc
México D.F., C.P. 06500,
MEXICO

Fax: +52 55 5346 0908

Email: ofproc@pgr.gob.mx

Attorney General of Guerrero

Lic. Eduardo Murueta Urrutia
Procurador del Estado de Guerrero
Carretera Nacional México-Acapulco
Km. 6+300
Tramo Chilpancingo-Petaquillos
Chilpancingo 39090, Guerrero,
MEXICO

Fax: +52 747 494 2981

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the third update of UA 314/08 (AMR 41/59/2008). Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/059/2008/en>; <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/006/2009/en>; <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/015/2009/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 17 April 2008, Raúl Hernández of the Me'phaa Indigenous People's Organization (OPIM) was detained and charged with the murder of Alejandro Feliciano García on 1 January 2008 in the village of El Camalote, Guerrero state. Amnesty International has adopted the indigenous rights defender as a prisoner of conscience and believes that the charges against him are politically motivated.

Raúl Hernández was denied an injunction by a federal judge on the grounds that two alleged witnesses had testified to his presence when the victim was shot. However eyewitness testimonies that Raúl Hernández was not present at the time of the murder have not been taken into consideration. Raúl Hernández has appealed against the decision to deny an injunction in his case.

He has not yet been tried.

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