

URGENT ACTION

EVICTED COMMUNITY AT RISK

Guatemalan authorities have forcibly evicted a community that was living in northern Guatemala. The 300 inhabitants have fled over the border to Tabasco state, southern Mexico. They are living in precarious conditions without adequate access to food, clean water, housing and medical services.

On 23 August the community of **Nueva Esperanza** were forced off their land by members of the Guatemalan army and National Police. They were not given prior warning of the eviction and were not provided with alternative housing. The authorities claim the community had to be removed from the land as it was an environmental conservation area. The community's houses, school and church were burnt down during the eviction.

As a result of the eviction, the 300 inhabitants, including over 100 children and several pregnant women, sought refuge across the Mexican border in the community of Nuevo Progreso, Tabasco state. The violence and speed of the eviction left the community unable to gather their belongings before they left. The conditions the community are now living in Mexico are extremely precarious. They live in makeshift huts with no access to basic services such as clean water and medical services. The conditions have led to illness and infections amongst the community. As winter approaches, with prolonged rainfall, the community's lack of access to safe water, food and adequate shelter is increasingly concerning. The Mexican authorities have so far failed to ensure the community's safe living conditions with sufficient access to adequate services and shelter.

Negotiations between the community and the Guatemalan government have progressed slowly. The government has so far offered the community a much smaller plot of land and has refused to provide the community with reparations for the land and property they have lost.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Urge the Mexican authorities to provide the Nueva Esperanza community with urgent humanitarian assistance including access to food, clean water, adequate housing and education and to foster negotiations leading to the safe and fair return of the community to Guatemala;
- Urge the Guatemalan authorities to resolve the dispute as a matter of urgency and grant the Nueva Esperanza community adequate alternative land and housing in accordance to their wishes, with access to shelter, food, water, healthcare services in a location where their physical integrity can be guaranteed;
- Call on the Guatemalan authorities for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the forced eviction of the Nueva Esperanza community.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 JANUARY 2012 TO:

President of Mexico

Lic. Felipe de Jesús Calderón Hinojosa
Residencia Oficial de Los Pinos
Casa Miguel Alemán
Col. San Miguel Chapultepec
MEXICO DF, CP 11850
Fax: +52 55 5093 5321
E: felipe.calderon@presidencia.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear President Calderon

President of Guatemala

Ing. Álvaro Colom Caballeros
Presidente de la República
Casa Presidencial
6ª Avenida 4-41, Zona 1,
Puerta del Centro
Ciudad de Guatemala
GUATEMALA
Fax: +502 2221 4445
Salutation: Dear President

Governor of Tabasco

Q.F.B. Andrés Granier Melo
Independencia # 2, Col. Centro,
Villahermosa, Tabasco,
México, CP 86000
MEXICO
Fax: +52 993 314 2612
Email: gobernador@tabasco.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Governor

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

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

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

EVICTED COMMUNITY AT RISK

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Name: Nueva Esperanza community

Gender m/f: Both

UA: 340/11 Index: AMR 41/074/2011 Issue Date: 22 November 2011