

URGENT ACTION

ARTICLE 19 STAFF THREATENED IN MEXICO CITY

An anonymous threatening letter was received by Article 19, a human rights organization which works on the right to freedom of expression at their country headquarters in Mexico City, Mexico.

On 19 April, a threatening letter was found at the front door of **Article 19** offices. The threat was directed at the Director, **Darío Ramírez**, and the rest of the organisation's staff. The letter said: "Fucking little boss...you're an asshole and you have no idea who you are dealing with...Let's see if your heart does not stop with a beating. Too much fucking freedom. Let's see how macho you are after you and your little shits are really done in...We are watching you very closely...You know who we are and that we are capable of doing it" (Pinche jefesito pendejo...eres un puto que no sabes con quien te estas metiendo...A ver si con una madrisa no se te para el corazon. Mucha puta libertad verdad. A ver que ten verga eres cuando termines tu y tus putitos bien puteados...Estamos viendote y bien cerca...Sabes quienes somos y que si lo podemos ahcer [sic]).

Article 19 has submitted formal complaints to the Federal District authorities. The organisation has requested protection, from the mechanism established to protect journalists and human rights defenders for Darío Ramírez and all Article 19 staff. The Federal District authorities have implemented police patrols on the basis of a protection orders issued by the Human Rights Commission of the Federal District (Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Distrito Federal).

Article 19, its director, and staff have decided to continue with their work documenting, defending and promoting freedom of expression in Mexico. Article 19 has documented many cases of journalists who have been attacked and/or threatened across the country and the failure of the authorities to effectively investigate cases or guarantee the safety of journalists.

Please write immediately in your own language:

- Express concern for the safety of all Article 19 staff and its director, Darío Ramírez, and urge the authorities to provide all of them with effective protection in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Call on the authorities to carry out a full, swift and impartial investigation into the anonymous threat letter found at the offices of Article 19 and for the results to be made public and those responsible held to account;
- Remind the authorities of their duty to guarantee that human rights defenders can carry out their work without fear of reprisals as established in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 05 JUNE 2013 TO:

Minister of the Interior

Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong
Bucareli 99, Col. Juárez, Cuauhtemoc,
Distrito Federal, México, C.P. 6600
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx
Fax: +52 55 5093 3414 (keep trying)

Salutation: Dear Minister

Head of Government of the Federal District

Miguel Ángel Mancera Espinosa
Plaza de la Constitución y 5 de febrero
7mo. Piso, Oficina 103, Col. Centro, C.P.
06068, Del. Cuauhtémoc, México D.F.,
México
Fax: +52 55 5345 8030
Email: jefaturadegobierno@df.gob.mx

Salutation: Head of Government

And copies to:

Article 19

Email: mexico@article19.org

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**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Article 19 opened its regional headquarters in Mexico in 2006 and has since documented and denounced pressure against the media, journalists and others who exercise the fundamental right to freedom of expression.

A Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists was unanimously approved by both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, and signed by the President, in 2012. The process for implementing the law has now started, including the direct participation of representatives of civil society, but operational protocols, clear guidelines on cooperation between federal and state authorities and resources urgently need to be put in place to guarantee its effectiveness. It is vital that the authorities do not assume that their responsibilities are restricted to establishing a protection mechanism and that there is a vital flow of communication between the federal, state and municipal governments.

Name: Article 19 staff and Darío Ramírez (m)

Gender m/f: m & f

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