

URGENT ACTION

DEFENDERS FACING INCREASING THREAT

Norma Esther Andrade was discharged from hospital on 6 December, even though she had not recovered, because staff treating her received threats. A banner containing a death threat was also hung by the primary school where she works. There are grave fears for her security, and that of her family and colleagues.

On 6 December human rights defender **Norma Esther Andrade** was discharged from hospital four days after she was shot at several times by an unknown man in the street and seriously wounded. She was not fully recovered at the time of being discharged from hospital. Norma Esther Andrade's daughter **Malú García Andrade** was later informed that the hospital staff had received threatening telephone calls from anonymous callers telling them if they did not discharge "that fucking old hag Norma" ("a la pinche viaja esta de Norma") someone would go after them.

On 7 December several witnesses saw that a large banner containing a death threat against Norma Esther Andrade and her daughter had been hung close to the primary school where Norma Esther Andrade teaches in Ciudad Juárez. The banner said that the shots on 2 December were a warning. The full content of the message is unknown as it was removed moments later by Municipal Police who later claimed to no longer know the whereabouts of the banner. Witnesses claim that several other names were also on the banner. Publicly displayed banners containing threats and other messages are frequently used by organized crime groups in Mexico.

Norma Esther Andrade is a founder of Our Daughters Return Home (Nuestra Hijas de Regreso a Casa, NHRC). Along with other staff there, she and her family have received numerous threats since June 2002. Malú García Andrade, a director at NHRC director, filed a formal complaint with the federal authorities on 30 September after she received a threatening telephone call. A few days later, a message was sent stating that she and her family had 12 hours to leave town or they would be killed. Since 2008, four NHRC members have protection orders from the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights requiring Mexican authorities to ensure their protection.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Demand the authorities fulfil commitments to guarantee the safety of Norma Esther Andrade, her family and members of NHRC and provide Norma Andrade with medical care;
- Urge a prompt, full and impartial investigation into the attack and latest threats, as well as previous threats, including the full cooperation of municipal police and ensure those responsible are brought to justice;
- Demand the authorities establish a mechanism to ensure the protection of all human rights defenders in Mexico.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 JANUARY 2012 TO:

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Alejandro Poiré Romero
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez
Delegación Cuauhtémoc
México D.F., C.P.06600, MÉXICO
Fax: +52 55 5093 3414
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx

Salutation: Dear Minister

Governor of Chihuahua State

Lic. César Duarte Jáquez
Gobernador del Estado de Chihuahua,
Palacio de Gobierno, 1er piso, C.
Aldama #901, Col. Centro,
Chihuahua, Estado de Chihuahua, C.P.
31000, México
Fax: +52 614 429 3300 extension 11066
El: despachodelejecutivo@hotmail.com

Salutation: Dear Governor

And copies to:

National Human Rights Commission
Comisión Nacional de los Derechos
Humanos de México
Email: correo@cndh.org.mx
And:
Nuestras Hijas de regreso a Casa
(Norma Esther Andrade's organization)
Email: karla_micheel@yahoo.com

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 first update of UA 349/11. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/080/2011/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Our Daughters Return Home (Nuestra Hijas de Regreso a Casa, NHRC) was founded in 2001 after a series of abductions and murders of women in Ciudad Juarez which the authorities failed to prevent or investigate adequately. One of those killed was Lilia Alejandra Garía Andrade, daughter of Norma Esther Andrade and sister of Malú García. NHRC have campaigned for justice for the victims and relatives of a long-running pattern of violence against women in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua City, and have highlighted the failure of the authorities to effectively investigate these crimes or hold perpetrators to account.

Name: Norma Esther Andrade, Malú García Andrade
Gender m/f: Female

Further information on UA 349/11 Index AMR 41/082/2011 Issue: Date: 9 December 2011

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