

URGENT ACTION

MEXICAN ACTIVIST HARASSED AND THREATENED

Juan Manuel Martínez, a political activist from Oaxaca state, Mexico, had his house broken into on 24 September. He has been repeatedly harassed and threatened. His life and that of his family may be in danger.

On the afternoon of 24 September, **Juan Manuel Martínez** and his wife returned to their home in the Municipality of Santa Cruz Xoxocotlan, Oaxaca state, Mexico, to find that it had been broken into and ransacked. Official documents related to complaints he had filed with the local public prosecutors office against previous acts of harassment and intimidation had been rifled through, but no valuables were stolen.

Juan Manuel Martínez was detained in 2008 for the murder of US journalist Brad Will, but was released in February 2010 after a federal court ruled that the charges against him were baseless. Amnesty International repeatedly raised concerns that his prosecution was unfounded and welcomed his release.

According to Juan Manuel Martínez, he and his family have been threatened and intimidated on several occasions since his release. He and his family have been forced to move home three times because of a pattern of harassment. Juan Manuel Martínez's wife has received threatening phone calls. Once, she was reportedly told: "stop causing problems or we will give you a serious beating" ("deje de chingar la madre o te vamos a partir la madre"). The family has also noticed that armed men have been keeping watch of their home and of the school their children attend.

A criminal complaint for has been filed with the Federal Attorney General's Office (Procuraduría General de la República) for the repeated acts of harassment against Juan Manuel Martínez and his family.

Juan Manuel Martínez's lawyer, Alba Cruz, has previously also been threatened. She left Oaxaca City in March 2010. She went to Mexico City and then travelled abroad in search of respite. She recently returned to Oaxaca City to continue her human rights work.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to provide effective protection for Juan Manuel Martínez and his relatives, in consultation with them and in accordance with their wishes;
- Calling on them to order a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the threats and attacks Juan Manuel Martínez and his family have suffered;
- Calling for the authorities to conduct a full and impartial investigation into the killing of Brad Will.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 8 NOVEMBER 2010 TO:

Attorney General of the Republic

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
Salutation: Estimado Procurador/ Dear Attorney General

Governor of Oaxaca

Lic. Ulises Ruiz Ortiz
Gobernador del Estado de Oaxaca
Carretera Oaxaca-Puerto Ángel, Km.
9.5, Santa María Coyotepec,
Oaxaca C.P. 71254, Oaxaca, MEXICO
Fax: +52 951 517 5890
Salutation: Estimado Gobernador/ Dear Governor

And copies to:

Human rights organization,
Comité 25 de Noviembre
Email:
comite25noviembre@yahoo.com.mx

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: 52/10. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/018/2010/en>

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