

URGENT ACTION

JAILED INDIGENOUS RIGHTS DEFENDER RELEASED

Mexican prisoner of conscience Idefonso Zamora was released on 12 August after almost nine months in jail. The local judge presiding over the case complied with a federal judge decision to release Idefonso Zamora due to lack of evidence that he had been involved in a robbery.

On 12 August **Idefonso Zamora**, an Indigenous rights defender who campaigns to protect the forest in his community's ancestral land, was released from prison in Mexico state. Amnesty International considered him a prisoner of conscience.

Idefonso Zamora was arrested on 20 November 2015, accused of a house robbery in his own Indigenous Tlahuica community of San Juan Atzingo, 80km southwest of Mexico City. Mexico state prosecutors had filed charges against him for this 2012 robbery. On 11 August 2016, a federal judge determined that the guarantees of fair trial had been violated in the case and ordered the local judge to release Idefonso Zamora. The Zamora family, Greenpeace Mexico, Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez and Amnesty International campaigned for his release.

"I feel an emotion, a happiness so great to be back with my family, with my people, after nearly nine months of being unjustly imprisoned," Idefonso Zamora told Amnesty International after a press conference in Mexico City following his release. He continued: "The biggest 'crime' I have committed is to have achieved the certification and recognition of the communal lands of San Juan Atzingo...as well as having combatted the excessive logging that is destroying our forests. We have harmed personal, economic and political interests with our struggle".

Idefonso Zamora also thanked the organization for campaigning on his behalf, stating: "My sincere thanks to everyone at Amnesty International around the world. I don't have enough words to tell you that I thank you endlessly. I hope that God continues giving you such noble hearts, such big hearts to continue defending people who suffer, like I suffered; who are imprisoned, like I was imprisoned".

No further action by the UA network is requested at this time. Thank you very much to all those who have taken action on this case.

This is the second update of UA 106/16. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr41/4277/2016/en/

Name: Idefonso Zamora
Gender m/f: m

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