

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER CONSTANTLY HARASSED

Human rights lawyer Rodrigo Higuera Zogaib has reported suffering constant intimidation and harassment as result of his work. The authorities have so far failed to guarantee his safety. A full investigation into these incidents must be carried out.

Mexican human rights lawyer **Rodrigo Higuera Zogaib** has reported suffering threats and harassment because of his work. Due to the high risk, his family fled the country. Rodrigo Higuera Zogaib's office in Mexico City was broken into on 20 March; the files of a sensitive case were thrown on the floor and a computer was taken. This is not the first time the lawyer and his colleagues have reported facing intimidation and harassment. During the last two years their office has been broken into another four times; computers and cell phones containing sensitive information have been stolen, sometimes by force, and their telephone and internet lines have been tampered with and sabotaged. Office personnel have reported unknown men watching and photographing them.

Rodrigo Higuera Zogaib reported these incidents to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos). Likewise, the federal human rights defender's protection mechanism has been informed, but the measures so far taken by federal authorities have been insufficient to effectively protect him, his colleagues, and his family.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to guarantee the safety of Rodrigo Higuera Zogaib, his colleagues, and his family, in accordance with their wishes;
- Urging them to carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the harassment suffered by Rodrigo Higuera Zogaib and members of his law firm;
- Calling on them to ensure that human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate activities without fear of reprisals, including human rights lawyers working on potentially sensitive cases.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 13 MAY 2015 TO:

Minister of the Interior

Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, Col Juárez
Cuauhtémoc, México, D.F.
C.P. 06600, México
Fax: +52 55 5093 3414
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx
Twitter: @osoriochong
Salutation: Dear Minister / Sr. Secretario

Mayor of Mexico City

Miguel Ángel Mancera Espinosa
Jefatura de Gobierno
Plaza de la Constitución 2, Oficina 131
Centro, Cuauhtémoc, México, D.F.
C.P. 06068, México
Email: jefaturadegobierno@df.gob.mx
Twitter: @ManceraMiguelMX
Salutation: Dear Mayor / Sr. Jefe de Gobierno

And copies to:

Amnesty International
Regional Office - Americas
Luz Saviñón 519, Col. Del Valle
Del. Benito Juárez, México, D.F.
C.P. 03100, México

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

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

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Rodrigo Higuera Zogaib's law firm represents several cases in Mexico City. He believes the intimidation he has been facing is related to the potentially sensitive case of Lorena González Hernández, a former member of the police who has been charged with kidnapping. Rodrigo Higuera Zogaib considers this to be a wrongful accusation, plagued with human rights violations, and has decided to represent her before tribunals.

A Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists was unanimously approved by both houses of Mexico's parliament, and signed by the president, in 2012. However the protection mechanism lacks effectiveness, since the protection measures are ploddingly implemented and the cooperation among authorities are scarce. 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: Rodrigo Higuera Zogaib
Gender m/f: m

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