

# URGENT ACTION

## DEFENDER AT HIGHER RISK

On 30 March 2020, the Secretariat of Public Security of Yucatan, Mexico, withdrew the police accompaniment to human rights defender Clemencia Adelaida Salas Salazar alleging its response to COVID-19. Adelaida Salas has protective measures granted by the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) since March 2017. The state of Yucatan must not use measures in response to the pandemic as a pretext to weaken or withdraw protection for human rights defenders. We urge the government of Yucatan to immediately restore Adelaida's protection measures in accordance with the highest international human rights standards.

**TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER**

**Mtro. Mauricio Vila Dosal**

Gobernador Constitucional del Estado de Yucatán  
Calle 61 x 60 y 62,  
Centro, C.P. 97000,  
Mérida, Yucatán  
México  
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Dear Mtro. Mauricio Vila Dosal,

*I write to express my concern about the recent withdrawal of protection measures to Clemencia Adelaida Salas Salazar despite protective measures granted to her by the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) since March 2017.*

*According to the information provided by the defender, the Secretariat of Public Security withdrew her bodyguards in the context of the COVID-19. Her protection is crucial to guarantee Adelaida's life, since she faces continuous risks due to her activity as a human rights defender. Measures taken in the context of the pandemic should not result in the endangerment of human rights defenders. Their work should continue with appropriate adjustments in the current scenario.*

***We urge the government of Yucatan to immediately restore these measures in accordance with the highest international human rights standards, in agreement with Adelaida and without prejudice to the right to health for all citizens in Yucatan.***

Yours sincerely,

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Clemencia Adelaida Salas Salazar defends the rights of women in Yucatan. She is the representative for the National Citizens' Observatory on Femicide (Observatorio Ciudadano Nacional del Femicidio) and legal representative of Ni una Más A.C.; an organization that promotes the Gender Alert in Yucatan. This NGO is a member of the National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders in Mexico (Red Nacional de Defensoras de Derechos Humanos en México).

In 2017, the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) issued precautionary measures to guarantee the life and physical integrity of Clemencia Adelaida Salas Salazar, for her work as a human rights defender, after the killing of Emma Gabriela Molina Canto. The CNDH condemned the withdrawal of the protective measures of Adelaida Salas in a statement on 10 April 2020 and expressed that to date she continues to be at imminent risk.

According to information received, the withdrawal of the bodyguards is because they are needed for other activities related to the contingency. We also received information of a woman human rights defender facing the same issue in Yucatan.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** Spanish  
You can also write in your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** 30 May 2020  
Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

**NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN:** Clemencia Adelaida Salas Salazar (she/her)

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** N/A