

URGENT ACTION

STATE AGENTS THREATEN MIGRANT SHELTER STAFF

Government agents have attempted to get into a migrants' shelter in the south-eastern Mexican state of Tabasco. The human rights defenders who staff the shelter, and migrants staying there, are in danger.

On 15 April two men registered at the "La 72" migrants' shelter claiming to be, and dressed as, migrants. However, one of the shelter staff realised he had seen the men working as either staff or informants at the Federal Attorney General's Office (Procuraduría General de la República, PGR). When shelter staff asked them to leave they said they were looking for "friends" (*amigos*). When the shelter staff revealed that they knew their true identify, the two men replied: "And you, who the fuck do you think you are; tell me your name" (*Y tu quien chingados eres; dime tu nombre [sic]*). When the shelter staff insisted that they leave, the two men said: "What fucking security do you have if we managed to get in" (*Que pinche seguridad tienen si nosotros nos metimos*).

After they had left, a man waiting outside known to be a federal judicial police agent told the shelter staff that the men had been looking for migrants who had filed a complaint of extortion against Federal Investigations Agency (Agencia Federal de Investigación, AFI) agents. He said: "We wanted to speak to them, peacefully" (*queremos hablar con ellos, venimos en buena onda*) The staff explained that if they needed anything the agents could hold an official meeting at the prosecutor's office in the PGR. The AFI agent replied with a veiled threat: "I also read the bible and as it says you will see things which have never been seen" (*Yo también leo la biblia y como dice verán cosas que nunca se han visto*).

Shelter staff are preparing a formal complaint to file with the PGR. They say they have seen other people walking past the shelter, which is on a track off the main road.

Please write immediately in Spanish, English or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to ensure the protection of migrants in the "La 72" shelter in Tenosique, Tabasco state who have filed criminal complaints against those responsible for assaults and extortion, including police, and to ensure the protection of the shelter's staff;
- Urging them to order a full and prompt investigation into the actions of people linked to the federal judicial police or AFI who pretended to be migrants to get into the shelter and who threatened shelter staff;
- Calling on them to adopt and implement an effective mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders and ensure migrants can file complaints against those who abuse them without fear of reprisals

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 MAY 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, MEXICO
Fax: +52 55 5093 3414
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx

**Salutation: Dear Minister/Estimado
Señor Secretario**

Attorney General of the Republic

Marisela Morales Ibáñez
Paseo de la reforma 211-213
Col. Cuauhtémoc, México D.F., C.P.
06500, MEXICO
Fax: +52 55 5346 0908 (keep trying, and
ask for "fax")
Email: ofproc@pgr.gob.mx

**Salutation: Dear Attorney
General/Estimada Procuradora**

And copies to:

"La 72" migrant shelter
"La 72" Hogar Refugio para Personas
Migrantes,
Calle S/N, Colonia, Estación Nueva,
Tenosique, Tabasco state,
Post code 86901, MEXICO

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

The AFI is a Mexican federal agency which fights corruption and organized crime. It replaced an earlier agency, the Federal Judicial Police. The agency is directed by the Attorney General's Office (PGR). The AFI was supposedly differentiated from other Mexican law enforcement agencies to prevent possible "contamination" or corruption by senior personnel of other government organizations.

"La 72" migrants' shelter in Tenosique, Tabasco state is run by Fray Tomás and has previously received anonymous telephone death threats and been insulted by state police and soldiers.

Hundreds of thousands of irregular migrants (those without official travel documents) attempt to travel through Mexico from Central and South America every year to reach the USA. Many are detained by the Mexican migration authorities and returned to their countries of origin. Amnesty International has visited Mexico to investigate reports of human rights violations against these people. During the visit, Amnesty International found that many had been kidnapped by gangs, sometimes with the complicity of local officials. Impunity for abuses against migrants, who are extremely vulnerable, has allowed these abuses to increase, despite government commitments to ensure respect of migrants' rights.

Name: migrants and staff at "la 72" migrants shelter

Gender m/f: both

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