

# URGENT ACTION

## INVESTIGATION NEEDED AFTER POLICE INTIMIDATION

**Police have intimidated and threatened a migrants' shelter in Tapachula, Chiapas State, South West México. The lives of staff, migrants and volunteers at the shelter could be at risk.**

On 27 July, a group of around eight uniformed members of the Federal Police burst into the offices of the migrants' shelter "All for Them" (**Todos por Ellos**) without a warrant. The aggressors were violent and stated they had come to the shelter as they had known of cases of prostitution and child exploitation in the shelter. The coordinator of the shelter, **José Ramón Verdugo Sánchez (known as Hermano Ramón)**, was told by the Police that he would be detained, that migrants would be deported, and that they would "have the hell beaten out of them" (les romperían la madre). The aggressors left the shelter after intimidating migrants and staff of the shelter by pushing and pulling them. No major injuries were reported.

A formal complaint regarding the actions was filed in the following days at the Office of the Attorney General (Procuraduría General de la República). The implementation of protection measures (medidas cautelares) has been requested by the National Human Rights Commission (Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos)

### Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to provide effective protection to staff, volunteers and migrants at the All for Them shelter, in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Urging for a full and impartial investigation into the attack on the shelter on 27 July, the intimidation of the staff and migrants at the shelter, and for those responsible to be held to account;
- Urging the authorities to respect article 76 in the Migration Act (Ley de Migración) which states that not even the National Institute of Migration (Instituto Nacional de Migración, INM) is allowed to perform migration checks on civil society organizations where migrants are hosted.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 13 SEPTEMBER 2013 TO:

#### Minister of the Interior

Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong  
 Secretario de Gobernación  
 Bucareli 99, col. Juárez, C.P. 6600,  
 México D.F., México,  
 Fax: +52 55 5093 3414 (keep trying)  
 Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

#### Attorney General of the Republic

Jesús Murillo Karam  
 Paseo de la Reforma 211-213  
 Col. Cuauhtémoc, México D.F.  
 C.P. 06500, México  
 Fax: +52 55 5346 0908 (keep trying)  
 Email: ofproc@pgr.gob.mx  
**Salutation: Dear Attorney General**

#### **And copies to:**

Local NGO  
 All for Them  
 Email: ravesa@msn.com

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

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

**AMNESTY  
 INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The All for Them migrants' shelter offers a temporary place to children, teenagers and underage migrants who are on their own while travelling through México. Some of the main services the shelter provides to migrants are food, health, legal and sexual exploitation aid.

Hundreds of thousands of irregular migrants 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 migrants' rights are respected.

Amnesty International launched an action designed to make visible the plight of migrants travelling through Mexico and to provide much-needed assistance to migrants travelling across the country. The action can be found at: <http://sendsocks.org>.

The 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. The process for implementing the law is ongoing, including the direct participation of representatives of civil society. However, the mechanism has yet to function effectively for all those who have sought protection. Operational protocols, binding commitments of federal and state-level institutions to comply with protection orders, resources and high-level political support are all urgently needed to guarantee its effectiveness. It is vital that the authorities do not assume that their responsibilities are restricted to establishing a protection mechanism.

Name: José Ramón Verdugo Sánchez (m) and staff at the All for Them Shelter  
Gender m/f: both

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