

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER THREATENED WITH DEATH

Journalist Lydia Cacho, a human rights defender based in Cancún, south-eastern Mexico, has been threatened with death.

Lydia Cacho was working at home on 29 July when her handheld transceiver, used only for emergencies, turned on by itself. She answered, thinking it might be a work colleague, and heard a male voice calling her by name and saying: "We have already warned you, bitch, don't mess with us. It is clear you didn't learn with the small trip you were given. What is coming next for you will be in pieces, that is how we will send you home, you idiot" (*Ya te lo dijimos pinche puta no te metas con nosotros se ve que no aprendiste con la vueltecita que te dieron la que te va a tocar va ser en pedacitos así te vamos a mandar a casa en pedacitos pendeja*). She has filed a formal complaint about this threat with the Attorney General of the Republic.

Lydia Cacho started to receive threats and harassment after publishing a book in 2005, in which she exposed a child pornography ring which she said operated with the knowledge and protection of politicians and business people of Quintana Roo and Puebla states. As a result of defamation cases brought against Lydia Cacho, and irregular legal proceedings, she was detained in December 2006 and subjected to threats and harassment. Following this, taped phone conversations which were published in the media implicated former senior government officials of Puebla State in her detention and harassment. She has continued to receive threats since then, on some occasions in reprisal for her work as journalist and human rights defender at a women's shelter in Cancun.

In 2009, the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos) had ordered the Mexican government to provide protection measures (*medidas cautelares*) for Lydia Cacho. The following year, Lydia Cacho published another book, again uncovering trafficking of women and girls and revealing names of people she said were linked to these criminal networks.

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

- Express concern that Lydia Cacho was threatened with death on 29 July, and urging the authorities to guarantee her safety;
- Urge them to provide Lydia Cacho with effective protection measures, in accordance with her wishes, and as ordered by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights;
- Call on them to order a swift, full and impartial investigation into the death threats, and bring those responsible to justice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 12 SEPTEMBER 2012 TO:

Minister of Interior

Dr. Alejandro Poiré Romero
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez
Delegación Cuauhtémoc
México D.F., C.P.06600, México
Fax: +52 55 5093 3414
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Minister

Attorney General of the Republic

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

And copies to:

Local NGO

Fundación Lydia Cacho
Email: info@fundacionlydiacacho.org

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

Journalists in Mexico face serious risk of being attacked or murdered for their work. According to the National Human Rights Commission at least 70 journalists have been killed since 2000 and the whereabouts of 13 others, who were abducted, are unknown. Those investigating or reporting on crime and corruption are particularly vulnerable to attack or intimidation. In the vast majority of cases, the perpetrators are not brought to justice, and this creates a climate of impunity.

Lydia Cacho was previously the subject of UA 207/11 (AMR 41/045/2011), 4 July 2011.

Name: Lydia Cacho

Gender m/f: f

UA: 228/12 Index: AMR 41/055/2012 Issue Date: 1 August 2012

