

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE BROKEN INTO IN MEXICO

The offices of a Human Rights Centre in Coahuila State, northern Mexico, were broken into on 8 September and sensitive information was stolen. Staff could be at risk of further harassment.

On 8 September, the offices of Juan Gerardi Human Rights Centre (Centro de Derechos Humanos Juan Gerardi A.C.) in Torreón, Coahuila State, were broken into by unknown individuals. Two desktop computers containing case information were taken, but a new computer still in its box was not removed. Other items such as a stereo and a printer were also not taken by the aggressors. The centre's staff therefore believe the break-in was not a robbery, but was carried out in order to intimidate them and obtain information. Confidential hard copy files relating to sensitive cases of enforced disappearances and abductions were rifled through. Other items reported missing were photographs of migrants, scanned deportations documents, and scanned personal data of staff at the centre. A formal complaint has been filed with the Coahuila State Attorney General (Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado de Coahuila, PGJE).

In February 2012, the Juan Gerardi Human Rights Centre premises were raided by military and police personnel. Despite evidence of military involvement in the raid, the military authorities refused to acknowledge participation of military personnel and closed their investigation. There is no information on the results of the civilian investigation opened as a result of the complaint filed by the human rights organization.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Urge the authorities to guarantee the safety of the staff of Juan Gerardi Human Rights Centre and implement protection measures as requested by the centre;
- Demand the authorities to carry out a full, prompt, and impartial investigation into the break-in and the circumstances which led to it, including evidence that suggests it was not a robbery;
- Call on the authorities to ensure that human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate activities without fear of reprisals.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 OCTOBER 2013 TO:

Coahuila State Attorney General

Homero Ramos Gloria
Centro Metropolitano, Humberto Castilla
Salas 600, C.P. 25050
Saltillo, Coahuila,
México.
Fax: +52 844 438 0728
Email: pgje@coahuila.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Minister of 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

And copies to:

Juan Gerardi Human Rights Centre
Email: coordinacion@cdhgerardi.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 Juan Gerardi Human Rights Centre is a human rights organization based on the premises of a local church with strong links to the Catholic community. It provides support for relatives and victims of human rights violations across all faiths, including women, migrants and relatives of the disappeared or abducted. Torréon is one of the cities most severely affected by violence between drug cartels, with a heavy police and military presence, with scores of killings, abductions, detentions and raids. Victims of violence and human rights violations have virtually no one to turn to. The insecurity and violence makes the work of the centre extremely important, but places its staff at risk of reprisals.

Name: Juan Gerardi Human Rights Centre staff

Gender m/f: both

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