

# URGENT ACTION

## FEARS FOR STAFF AND MIGRANTS AT SHELTER

**Guadalupe Calzada, who runs the migrants shelter, San Juan Diego, in Lecheria, outside the capital Mexico City, and the volunteers and migrants at the shelter, are at risk of attack and arson after a threat was made against them.**

On 30 January, a Guatemalan man informed **Guadalupe Calzada**, who runs the irregular migrants (those without official travel documents) shelter in Lecheria, that he had been told while at work to take care by an unknown man as there were plans to burn the shelter down, murder Guatemalan migrants and kill Guadalupe Calzada "like a dog" ("como un perro") within three days. The threat is believed to originate from people smuggler gangs operating in the area who consider the shelter a threat to their criminal activities.

Earlier the same day, Guadalupe Calzada had filed a report with police against a man who was loitering outside the shelter and who began to shout insults at her. Police arrived and arrested the man. He was later released. Migrants rights defenders suspect the incident may be linked to the threat.

As a result of the threat, the shelter has requested protection from the municipal authorities and has presented the incident to the National Human Rights Commission.

### PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of Guadalupe Calzada, volunteers and migrants at the shelter in Lecheria after the threat;
- Calling for immediate protection measures to be implemented in accordance with the wishes of Guadalupe Calzada and others at risk;
- Calling for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the threat against the shelter and for those responsible to be held to account;
- Reminding the authorities of their duties to guarantee that human rights defenders can carry out their work without fear of reprisals as established in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 15 MARCH 2011 TO:

#### Minister of the Interior

Lic. José Francisco Blake Mora  
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](mailto:secretario@segob.gob.mx)

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

#### Governor of Mexico state

Enrique Peña Nieto  
Lerdo Poniente Numero 300,  
Primer Piso, Puerta 216,  
Palacio Del Poder Ejecutivo,  
Colonia Centro, CP 50000  
Toluca, Estado de México, México  
Fax: (+52) 722 2760046  
Email: [cnm@gem.gob.mx](mailto:cnm@gem.gob.mx)

**Salutation: Dear Governor/Estimado  
Gobernador**

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

#### Migrants rights organization:

Dimensión Pastoral de la Movilidad  
Humana

Email: [jornalerosdpmh@hotmail.com](mailto:jornalerosdpmh@hotmail.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

Every year, thousands of undocumented migrants from Central America travel across Mexico in order to reach the US border. Many of them suffer beatings, kidnapping, rape and even murder. In most of the cases the attacks are carried out by criminal gangs, but officials are known to have been complicit or acquiescent in many of the attacks. By and large, the authorities fail to investigate attacks against migrants and to bring those responsible to justice.

A network of shelters, usually located near the freight railway line which migrants often use, provide humanitarian assistance to migrants and encourage them to file criminal complaints when they suffer abuses. The migrants rights defender running or volunteering these shelters frequently face threats and intimidation from criminal gangs and sometimes public officials. Those behind the threats are rarely held to account.

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