

URGENT ACTION

HOME OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER BROKEN INTO

The home of human rights defender Darío Ramírez was broken into in Mexico City, Mexico. He is the director of prominent human rights organization Article 19 in the country and there is concern that the incident may be connected to his work and that of the organization on freedom of expression.

On 16 March, **Darío Ramírez**, director of the Mexico chapter of **Article 19** in Mexico City, found that his home had been broken into while he was away. Computers, work documents, and other valuable objects were taken. This incident occurred two days before Article 19 launched a report documenting attacks against journalists and media workers. A formal complaint has been filed at the Office of the Attorney General of the Federal District (Procuraduría General de Justicia del Distrito Federal), and protection measures have been requested from the federal Mechanism for Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists.

Although it is not yet certain that the break-in is connected to Darío Ramírez's work as a human rights defender, it follows a pattern of security incidents which Article 19 has suffered since April 2013 when they received a threatening letter against Darío Ramírez and their staff. As a result of the threat, Article 19 staff have received some protection measures.

Since the April 2013 threat, there were at least two other suspicious incidents involving Article 19 which the organization believes may constitute harassment, including surveillance. Despite filing complaints in connection with all of the incidents, no one has been held to account.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of Darío Ramírez and all staff of Article 19's Mexico chapter, and urging the authorities to provide them with effective protection in strict accordance with their wishes;
- Calling on the authorities to carry out a full, swift and impartial investigation into the break-in at Darío Ramírez's home, ensuring that possible motives related to his human rights work are fully explored, for the results to be made public and for those responsible to be held accountable;
- Reminding the authorities of their duty 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 30 APRIL 2014 TO:

Minister of the Interior
Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong
Bucareli 99, Col. Juárez, Cuauhtémoc,
Distrito Federal, México, C.P. 6600
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx
Fax: +52 55 5093 3414 (keep trying)
Salutation: Dear Minister

Head of Government of the Federal District
Miguel Ángel Mancera Espinosa
Plaza de la Constitución y 5 de Febrero
Col. Centro, C.P. 06068, Del.
Cuauhtémoc, México D.F., México
Fax: +52 55 5345 8030
Email: jefaturadegobierno@df.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Head of Government of Federal District

And copies to:
Article 19, Mexico
Email: mexico@article19.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. This is the first update of UA 108/13. Further information:

www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/021/2013/en

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Article 19 opened its regional headquarters in Mexico in 2006 and has since documented and denounced attacks on media, journalists and others who exercise the fundamental right to freedom of expression and has pressed the government to end impunity for these abuses

A 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 has now started, including the direct participation of representatives of civil society, but operational protocols, clear guidelines on cooperation between the federal and state authorities and resources urgently need to be put in place to guarantee its effectiveness. It is vital that the authorities do not assume that their responsibilities are restricted to establishing a protection mechanism and that there is a vital flow of communication between the federal, state and municipal governments.

Name: Darío Ramírez (m) and Article 19 staff
Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 108/13 Index: AMR 41/009/2014 Issue Date: 19 March 2014