

# URGENT ACTION

## FURTHER THREATS FOR MIGRANTS RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

**Migrants' Rights Defenders working at the Beato Juan Bautista Scalabrini Migrants' Rights Centre in Tamaulipas state, northern Mexico, are at risk of further attacks and kidnapping following a threatening phone call. Their lives are at risk.**

On 29 April, **Father Gianantonio Baggio**, the director of the Beato Juan Bautista Scalabrini Migrants Rights Centre (Centro de Derechos Humanos Beato Juan Bautista Scalabrini), in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas state, received a threatening phone call. When Father Gianantonio Baggio identified himself as the director of the shelter, the man on the other end of the phone told him "I am the boss of a security house [used by kidnapping gangs] and from your telephone you called the Federal Police and spoke badly of us. I am going to send over some trucks with my armed men to kill you because we don't fuck about here" ("Soy el jefe de una casa de seguridad y desde ese telefono ustedes han hablado mal de nosotros con los federales. Les voy a mandar unas camionetas con mi gente armada para que los levante porque no hay nada de bromas con nosotros"). Staff at the shelter immediately contacted local authorities to ask for protection. Federal Police visited the shelter, but protection remains insufficient.

Staff at the Beato Juan Bautista Scalabrini Migrants Rights Centre have received threats on previous occasions. In March, Ignacio Muñiz Zamora, a legal adviser to migrants at the shelter, was approached by two unidentified armed men. The two men tried to force Ignacio Muñiz Zamora into their vehicle. During this struggle one of the men threatened him saying "you shouldn't mess with us, stop what you are doing" ("no debes de meterte con nosotros y deja de hacer lo que estas haciendo"). The men then pointed a gun at Ignacio Muñiz Zamora, stole two laptop computers and a radio that he was carrying with him and drove off. A complaint was filed with the authorities and limited protection measures were provided, such as improved security to the shelter door.

Amnesty International is gravely concerned that Father Gianantonio Baggio, Ignacio Muñiz Zamora and other members of staff at the Migrants Rights Centre are at risk. Ignacio Muñiz Zamora and others asked for protection measures from the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights in late 2010 but these have not yet been granted.

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

- Express concern for the safety of Father Gianantonio Baggio, Ignacio Muñiz Zamora and other members of staff at the Beato Juan Bautista Scalabrini Migrants Rights Centre;
- Call for effective protection measures to be implemented immediately in accordance with the wishes of staff at the Migrants Rights Centre so that they can continue their work defending the rights of migrants;
- Call for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the threats against staff at the shelter and possible links between public officials and criminal gangs involved abuses such as abduction and human trafficking.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 JUNE 2011 TO:**

#### Minister of the Interior

Lic. José Francisco Blake Mora  
Secretario, Sec. de Gobernación  
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez,  
Delegación Cuauhtémoc,  
México D.F., C.P. 06600, MÉXICO  
Fax: +52 55 30032900 ext. 32356  
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx

**Salutation: Dear Minister/Estimado**

**Señor Secretario**

#### Governor of Tamaulipas state

Ing. Egidio Torre Cantu  
Gobernador del Estado de Tamaulipas  
15 y 16 Juárez – Palacio de Gobierno,  
3 piso Cd. Victoria  
Tamaulipas, Mexico CP 87000  
Fax: +52 834 318 8000 (say "me da  
tono de fax por favor)

Email: [egidio.torre@tamaulipas.gob.mx](mailto:egidio.torre@tamaulipas.gob.mx)

**Salutation: Estimado Gobernador**

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

Centro de Derechos Humanos del  
Migrante  
Email: [coordinacion@cdhmcj.org](mailto:coordinacion@cdhmcj.org)

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA97/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/016/2011/en>

FU UA: 97/11 Index: AMR 41/024/2011 Issue Date: 04 May 2011

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**

