

# URGENT ACTION

## ACTIVISTS AND JOURNALIST THREATENED IN MEXICO

**On 3 April, three activists and a journalist who attended a meeting opposing the construction of a dam in Jalisco state, western Mexico, were threatened by men claiming to be federal employees. Three days later, an organization working with communities near the dam site received an anonymous threat. The four individuals and staff of the organization are in danger.**

The public meeting about the construction of the El Zapotillo dam was held in the town of Temacapulin, Jalisco state. Residents of the nearby communities of Tamaca, Acasio and Palmarejo face being displaced by the construction of the dam. The four had participated in the public meeting organized by the "Save Tamaca, Acasio and Palmarejo Committee (Comité Salvemos Temaca, Acasico y Palmarejo). They are three men - Marco Joachim von Borstel, who works for the human rights organization the Mexican Institute for Community Development (Instituto Mexicano para el Desarrollo Comunitario, IMDEC), and brothers, Manuel de Jesús and Juan Agustín Carvajal Jiménez, who are members of the Committee - and one woman, Jade Ramírez Cuevas Villanueva, a journalist who works for Guadalajara University Radio. When the meeting finished, the four were followed to a local bar by three men. The men approached them and said "the four of you have fucked up, you are going to die because you have been shaking things up"(los cuatro ya valieron para pura chingada, se van a morir pronto porque están alborotando la gallera"). The three men claimed to be federal employees and continued to intimidate the activists until they were finally asked to leave.

At 3am on 6 April, an anonymous caller telephoned the office of IMDEC in the city of Guadalajara. The male caller said: "Now we know where you are, son of a bitch"(Ya te tenemos localizado, hijo de tu puta madre) before hanging up. This threat and the earlier incident were reported to the Jalisco State Public Prosecutor's Office.

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

- Calling for Marco Joachim von Borstel, Jade Ramírez Cuevas Villanueva, Manuel de Jesús, Juan Agustín Carvajal Jiménez and members of IMDEC to receive protection in accordance with their wishes;
- Calling for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the threats against them and possible links to construction of the El Zapotillo dam in Jalisco state;
- Calling on the authorities to bring those found responsible for the threats brought to justice.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 MAY 2010 TO:

**Minister of the Interior**  
 Lic. Fernando Francisco Gómez-Mont  
 Secretaría de Gobernación  
 Bucareli 99, 1er. piso,  
 Col. Juárez, Del. Cuauhtémoc,  
 México D.F., C.P.06600, MEXICO  
**Fax: +52 55 5093 3414**  
**E-mail: secretario@segob.gob.mx**  
**Salutation: Señor Secretario/Dear Minister**

**Governor of Jalisco**  
 Lic. Emilio González Márquez  
 Gobernador del Estado de Jalisco  
 Palacio de Gobierno, Av Corona 31,  
 Col. Centro, Guadalajara C.P.  
 44100, Jalisco, MÉXICO  
**Fax: +52 33 3668 1866**  
**Email: emilio.gonzalez@jalisco.gob.mx**  
**Salutation: Dear Governor/ Señor Gobernador**

**Attorney General of Jalisco**  
 Lic. Tomás Coronado Olmos  
 Procurador del Estado de Jalisco  
 Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado  
 Calle 14 no 2567, Col. Zona Industrial  
 Guadalajara, C.P. 44940, Jalisco, MEXICO  
**Fax: + 52 33 3837 6008**  
**Email: tomas.coronado@jalisco.gob.mx**  
**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/ Señor Procurador**

Formatted: Left: 0.59", Right: 0.59", Top: 0.59", Bottom: 1.77", Width: 8.27", Height: 11.69"

**COPIES TO: Human rights organization Mexican Institute for Community Development Email: [director@imdec.net](mailto:director@imdec.net) and to diplomatic representatives of Mexico accredited to your country.** Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

Formatted: Left: 0.59", Right: 0.59", Top: 0.59", Bottom: 1.77", Width: 8.27", Height: 11.69"

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



# URGENT ACTION

## ACTIVISTS AND JOURNALIST THREATENED IN MEXICO

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The project to build El Zapotillo dam in Jalisco state, approved in 2006, has led to concern among local communities, particularly those of Temacapulín, Palmarejo and Acasico. Since plans for the dam were amended to increase its height, there has not been a full review of the impact that the construction of the dam would have on the local area. Work on the dam has already started, but the Jalisco state human rights commission has called for a halt to the work pending a full report on its likely impact. In 2009, Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action on behalf of a local journalist who was threatened after publishing critical reports on the consultation process with local communities affected by the dam (UA 82/09, AMR 41/017/2009).

