

URGENT ACTION

MEXICAN ACTIVIST FREED BUT THEN THREATENED

Mexican Indigenous rights activist and prisoner of conscience Raúl Hernández was released on 27 August after more than two years in prison. However, in the days after his release, he and other Indigenous activists have been threatened, and are in serious danger.

On 27 August, Raúl Hernández of the Me'phaa Indigenous People's Organization (Organización del Pueblo Indígena Me'phaa, OPIM) was acquitted of a murder charge for which he has been detained since April 2008 in Ayutla municipality, Guerrero state, southern Mexico. Jubilation at the recognition of his innocence and the misuse of the justice system which had kept him unfairly detained for so long has been curtailed after the new threats. On 28 August, a daughter of Inés Fernández was accosted by two men in the centre of Ayutla. Inés Fernández is a member of the OPIM, who was raped by soldiers in 2002, and has taken her campaign for justice to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The two men who approached her daughter threatened their family with death if they remained in Ayutla. The threat also made reference to Raúl Hernández. On 30 August, Álvaro Ramírez Concepción, coordinator of the Organization for the Future of the Mixteco Indigenous People (Organización para el Futuro del Pueblo Mixteco (OFPM) was shot by a group of men as he worked on a plot of land near Juquila, in Ayutla municipality. He was seriously wounded and was later taken to hospital where he continues to receive medical attention. Audencio Ramírez Concepción, Ambrosio García Catarino and Ramón García Guadalupe were also injured. The attackers fled the scene and remain at large. The OPIM and the OFPM are closely connected organizations based in Ayutla. Activists belonging to both organizations have been threatened and attacked. In April 2009 the Inter American Court of Human Rights ordered the Mexican government to ensure the safety of 109 human rights defenders in Guerrero (*medidas provisionales*), particularly those working with the OPIM and OFPM, after the killing of two OPIM leaders.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Welcome the release of Raúl Hernández after two years in prison;
- Express concern at the threat against Raúl Hernández, Inés Fernández and her family and calling for the authorities to comply with the protection order (*medidas provisionales*) of the Inter American Court of Human Rights and ensure their safety in accordance with their wishes;
- Express concern at the attack and wounding of OFPM activist, Álvaro Ramírez Concepción, and call for his safety to be guaranteed and that he and the other men injured in the attack;
- Call for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the threats and attack to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice and that OPIM and OFPM activists can carry out their legitimate activities without fear of reprisal.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 OCTOBER 2010 TO:

Minister of the Interior

Lic. José Francisco Blake Mora
 Secretario de Gobernación
 Secretaría de Gobernación
 Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez
 Delegación Cuauhtémoc
 México DF, CP 06600, MÉXICO
Fax: +52 55 5093 3414
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Secretary/Estimado
Señor Secretario

Governor of Guerrero

Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo
 Palacio de Gobierno
 Edificio Centro, Piso 2
 Ciudad de los Servicios
 Chilpancingo, Guerrero
 Mexico, CP 39075
Fax: +52 747 471 9956
Email: gobernador@guerrero.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Governor/ Estimado
Gobernador

Attorney General Office of Guerrero

Lic. David Augusto Sotelo Rosas
 Procuraduría General de Justicia de Guerrero
 Carretera Nacional México-Acapulco
 Km. 6+300
 Tramo Chilpancingo-Petaquillos
 Chilpancingo 39090, Guerrero,
 México
Fax: +52 747 472 2328
Email: cprocurador@pgjgro.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Sir/Estimado
Procurado

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 fifth update of UA 314/08 (AMR 41/059/2008). Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/059/2008/en

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