

# URGENT ACTION

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ATTACKED, THREATENED

**Community leader and human rights defender Bernardo Vásquez Sánchez was shot dead on 15 March. His brother and cousin, also members of the community organization defending their land and rights against a mining company were also injured. The organization suffered several previous threats and there is fear of further attacks.**

On 15 March Bernardo Vásquez Sánchez was killed and two members of his family were wounded by a group of around three gunmen, who ambushed them as they drove on a highway in Ocotlán, in the southern state of Oaxaca. The gunmen shot Bernardo Vásquez Sánchez in the back at least three times, killing him, and wounded his brother, **Álvaro Andres Vásquez Sánchez** in the shoulder, and their cousin, **Rosalinda Vásquez** in the leg. The gunmen fled in a car towards the city/town of Ejutla de Crespo. Álvaro Vásquez Sánchez and Rosalinda Vásquez remain in hospital.

Bernardo Vásquez Sánchez was the leader of the Coordination of United Peoples Ocotlán Valley (Coordinadora de Pueblos Unidos del Valle de Ocotlán), and Álvaro Andres Vásquez Sánchez and Rosalinda Vásquez are members. The organization has been demanding their rights as traditional owners of their communities' lands against a mining company.

### Please write immediately in Spanish, English or your own language:

- Demanding that the authorities provide protection to Álvaro Vásquez Sánchez, Rosalinda Vásquez and all other members of the Coordination of United Peoples Ocotlán Valley;
- Urging the authorities to order a full and prompt investigation of the killing of Bernardo Vásquez Sánchez and bring those responsible to justice;
- Calling on them to adopt and implement the mechanism of protection for human rights defenders and comply fully with United Nations resolution 61/178, which protects the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 MAY 2012 TO:

Governor of Oaxaca State  
Lic. Gabino Cué Monteagudo  
Palacio de Gobierno (Planta Alta), Plaza  
de la Constitución, Centro Histórico  
Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca, C.P. 68000  
Fax: +52 951 501 5000 Ext 40068  
Email: spagoboaxaca@gmail.com  
**Salutation: Dear Governor**

Attorney General of the Republic  
Marisela Morales Ibáñez  
Paseo de la reforma 211-213  
Col. Cuauhtémoc, México D.F., C.P.  
06500, México  
Fax: +52 55 5346 0908 (keep trying and  
ask for "fax")  
Email: ofproc@pgr.gob.mx  
**Salutation: Dear Attorney General**

**And copies to:**  
Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos  
Bartolomé Carrasco Briseño AC  
Email: barcadh09@gmail.com

**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.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Human rights activists in Mexico frequently face threats and attacks in reprisal for their legitimate human rights work. Those responsible are virtually never held to account, generating a climate of impunity. Despite improved commitments by the Oaxacan authorities to protect human rights defenders, intimidation and threats have continued. It has been registered that the Coordination of United Peoples Ocotlán Valley has been experienced several threats, and aggression, since 2009.

Names: Álvaro Andres Vásquez Sánchez, Rosalinda Vásquez

Gender m/f: both

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