

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST THREATENED VIA SMS MESSAGES

Mexican trade unionist and political activist Marcelino Coache Verano, his wife, a fellow political activist, and a human rights lawyer, have received threatening SMS messages. All the messages have contained threats to Marcelino Coache. His life is in danger.

On 17 August, **Marcelino Coache's** wife **Reyna Rivera** received an SMS message referring to her husband, saying "you won't protect him all his life and you'll all pay for it greetings from lynx" (no lo cuidaran toda la vida y la pagaran saludos lince (sic)). On the same day, **Yesica Sánchez Maya**, a female human rights lawyer from Oaxaca, and **Flavio Sosa**, a male political activist, also received SMS messages from the same telephone number, containing threats directed at Marcelino Coache. On 18 August, Marcelino Coache received an SMS saying: "faggot we are watching you greetings from lynx" (puto te estamos observando te saluda linze [sic]).

Marcelino Coache, who is a trade unionist and a leading member of the Oaxacan opposition political movement, the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (Asamblea Popular del Pueblo de Oaxaca, APPO) has been attacked and threatened on many occasions. On 4 March, he was abducted by three men and was tortured for several hours. During that time he was blindfolded but he heard his abductors referring to their leader as "Lynx" (Lince). Later that month, Marcelino Coache's 15-year-old son Edgar was threatened and followed by a group of men, and in May Marcelino Coache's wife and other Oaxacan human rights defenders received threatening SMS messages. Marcelino Coache has also been threatened and attacked previously, apparently because he is a prominent member of APPO.

On 8 May, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights asked the Mexican government to provide protection for Marcelino Coache. However, the steps taken by the Mexican authorities have been wholly inadequate, and the investigation into the threats has yielded no results.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- urging the authorities to ensure that they are providing Marcelino Coache and his family with all necessary protection, as set out in the ruling of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;
- calling on the authorities to urgently carry out an independent investigation into attacks and threats against Marcelino Coache, and into his abduction and torture, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 02 OCTOBER 2009 TO:

Minister of Interior

Lic. Fernando F. Gómez-Mont Urueta
Secretario de Gobernación
 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

Attorney General of the Republic

Lic. Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza
 Procuraduría General de la República
 Av. Paseo de la Reforma nº 211-213,
 Piso 16
 Col. Cuauhtémoc, Del. Cuauhtémoc
 México D.F., C.P. 06500, MEXICO
Fax: +52 55 5346 0908
Salutation: Dear Attorney General/Señor Procurador General

Governor of Oaxaca

Lic. Ulises Ruiz Ortíz
 Gobernador del Estado de Oaxaca
 Carretera Oaxaca-Puerto Ángel, Km.
 9.5, Santa María Coyotepec,
 Oaxaca C.P. 71254, Oaxaca, MEXICO
Fax: +52 951 502 0530
E-mail: gobernador@oaxaca.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Governor /Señor Gobernador

COPIES TO: Human Rights Organization - Centro de Derechos Humanos "Bartolomé Carrasco Briseño", Mariano Azuela 203, Col. José Vasconcelos, Oaxaca, MEXICO. **Email: barcadh@prodigy.net.mx**

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives of Mexico accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the third update of UA 68/09 (AMR 41/014/2009). Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/014/2009/en

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In June 2006, widespread protests erupted in the state of Oaxaca, led by APPO, in an unsuccessful campaign to force the state governor to resign. Political violence and demonstrations continued throughout the year. At least 18 civilians were reportedly killed during the conflict; at least 370 were injured and 349 were arrested. There were widespread reports of use of excessive force, arbitrary detention, torture and fabrication of criminal charges against protesters. On 16 July 2007 there were further violent clashes between police and protestors that resulted in more than 40 people detained and scores injured. Federal, state and municipal authorities responsible for abuses have not been held to account. While the political violence has declined, tensions remain high. APPO and human rights organizations continue to campaign for justice in relation to human rights violations committed during the protests in Oaxaca.

Further information on UA: 68/09 Index: AMR 41/044/2009 Issue Date: 21 August 2009

