

# URGENT ACTION

## FARMER DISAPPEARED, MICHOACÁN STATE, MEXICO

**The Orozco Medina family, peasant farmers in Nuevo Zirosto, Municipio de Uruapan, Michoacán State, Mexico, have been subject to a pattern of harassment involving municipal police since 2007. At least three family members have been abducted, with the most recent one feared to be the victim of enforced disappearance in May.**

On 22 May **Moisés Orozco Medina's** sister received a text message from her brother asking her to get help from the federal judicial police (Policía Federal Ministerial, PFM) as members of the municipal police were trying to take him away. He has not been seen since and his whereabouts remain unknown. The authorities deny involvement in his detention. According to the family, at the end of April 2012, Moisés Orozco Medina had been working at his family's avocado orchard when members of the municipal police tried to detain him and take him away but they did not succeed as agents of the federal judicial police were nearby and arrived to prevent his arbitrary detention.

In April 2009, witnesses reportedly saw, Moisés Orozco Medina's brother, **Leonel Orozco Medina**, being detained by a group of armed men wearing uniforms of the Federal Investigations Agency (Agencia Federal de Investigación, AFI). The whereabouts of Leonel Orozco Medina is still unknown. The authorities denied involvement in his disappearance. A formal complaint has been filed with PGJEM, but according to the family, they have been denied information on the case or access to their complaint. In July 2008, an armed group of around 6 people forced their way into the **Orozco Medina** house and abducted Moisés Orozco Medina's father, **Leonel Orozco Ortíz**. To date his whereabouts are unknown. A formal complaint was filed with Michoacán State Attorney General's Office (Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado, PGJEM). At the time of his apparent disappearance, Moisés Orozco Medina had been trying to investigate the abduction of his father, Leonel Orozco Ortíz, and the disappearance of his brother, Leonel Orozco Medina and the pattern of harassment against the family in order to press the authorities to take action. The Orozco Medina family believe the disappearances and harassments are intended to force them to abandon the family's land.

**Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:**

- Demanding authorities carry out a full and impartial investigation in the possible enforced disappearance of Moisés Orozco Medina, including the alleged involvement of municipal police, to provide information on his whereabouts and hold those responsible to account;
- Conduct a full and impartial investigation into the abduction or possible enforced disappearance of Leonel Orozco Ortíz and Leonel Orozco Medina;
- Calling for protection of members of the family at risk or harassment, unlawful detention, abduction and possible enforced disappearance;

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 AUGUST 2012 TO:**

Minister of the Interior

Dr. Alejandro Poiré Romero  
 Secretaría de Gobernación  
 Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez  
 Delegación Cuauhtémoc  
 México D.F., C.P.06600, Mexico  
 Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Governor of Michoacán State

Fausto Vallejo Figueroa  
 "Palacio de Gobierno" 1er. Patio planta  
 alta, Av. Madero Poniente No. 63,  
 Morelia C.P. 58000, Michoacán, México  
 Fax: +52 443 322 90 73  
 Email: gherrerac@michoacan.gob.mx

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

**And copies to:**

Local NGO

Comité de Familiares de Detenidos  
 Desaparecidos "Hasta Encontrarlos"  
 Email: hastaencontrarlos2@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.



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The events on 22 May follow are repeated pattern of harassments the family Orozco Medina has been receiving since 2007.

On 4 May 2010, a group dressed in civilian clothes abducted J. Jesús Medina Vargas and Gaspar Medina Vargas, both brothers of María Elena Medina who is the mother of Moisés Orozco Medina and wife of Leonel Orozco Ortíz. According to the family, both J. Jesús Medina Vargas and Gaspar Medina Vargas came home with signs of torture and were forced to hand over to their abductors the family's deeds of land ownership, sales contracts, car bills and the house deed. A formal complaint with the Attorney General of the Republic (Procuraduría General de la República, PGR) was filed, but there have been no advances in the investigation.

In December 2007, according to the family, a military army unit forced their way into the house of the Orozco Medina family. They demanded money which the family refused to give. They arrested Moisés Orozco Medina's older brother, José Iván Orozco, and removed some family belongings including photos. José Iván Orozco spent four years in prison and earlier this year he was acquitted of charges of possession of arms and drugs.

Name: Moisés Orozco Medina, Leonel Orozco Ortíz and Leonel Orozco Medina and all members of the Orozco Medina family  
Gender m/f: m&f

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