

PUBLIC

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30 October 2000

Further information on Extra 52/00 (AMR 41/25/00, 30 May 2000) and follow-up AMR 41/29/00, 21 June 2000) and (AMR 41/51/00, 22 September 2000)

- Prisoners of Conscience / Fear for safety

MEXICORodolfo Montiel Flores]Environmentalist prisoners
Teodoro Cabrera García]of conscience

Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera, two environmentalist prisoners of conscience, have written a letter thanking those who have supported them, including the Urgent Action network:

"From the Regional Prison of Iguala, Guerrero state, we would like to greet all our friends, of all ages, from all around the world. We would like to send our sincere and loving greetings to the civil and religious organizations, as well as to the environmental organizations and the political parties that fight for democracy and love and respect for others, to the media, human rights organizations, like Miguel Agustín Pro, and other national and local ones; and to our families, we would like to thank them for the great support that they have given us and we hope that they keep up their spirits and that we can increase our efforts to protect all forms of life. We must look after our forests, our springs, our rivers and our wild animals; in fact all our natural resources. There is still time to fight for a new world, full of peace and harmony.

Dear friends, we must not exchange the future of our children for a few coins. Let's be united, hand in hand with this new world that is for all of us. Dear family, we repeat our commitment from behind the bars. This is not goodbye, but see you soon. With courage, good luck and faith anything can be achieved.

Sincerely,

The environmentalist peasant farmers of the Mountains of Petatlán and Coyuca de Catalán."

Rodolfo Montiel Flores (signature)
Teodoro Cabrera García (finger print)"

(Original in Spanish)

"Desde el Reclusorio Regional de Iguala, Gro., nos permitimos saludar a todos nuestros amigos y amigas de todas las edades y del mundo entero. Les enviamos un cordial saludo con todo el cariño y respeto a las organizaciones civiles y eclesiásticas y ecologistas y partidos políticos que luchan por la democracia, el amor y el respeto para los demás; a los medios de comunicación, a los derechos humanos Miguel Agustín Pro y estatal y nacional y a nuestras familias queremos decirles gracias por el gran apoyo que nos han brindado y esperamos que no dejen caer el ánimo y doblemos nuestros esfuerzos en favor de la vida. Cuidemos nuestros bosques, nuestros manantiales, nuestros ríos y la fauna silvestre; en fin todos los recursos naturales. Todavía es tiempo que luchemos por un mundo nuevo y lleno de paz y armonía.

Bien compañeros no cambiemos el futuro de nuestros hijos por unas cuantas monedas. Vallamos juntos, unidos a ese nuevo mundo que es de todos y para todos. Bien familia, reiteramos nuestro compromiso desde detrás de las rejas. No les decimos adiós sino hasta luego. Con ánimo, suerte y fe todo puede ser.

Atentamente los campesinos ecologistas de la Sierra de Petatlán y Coyuca de Catalán."

*Rodolfo Montiel Flores (rúbrica) y
Teodoro Cabrera García (huella digital)*

Amnesty International adopted the two environmental activists as prisoners of conscience after they were detained and falsely charged, solely because of their peaceful protest against excessive logging in the Petatlán mountains of Guerrero state.

Both men were taken into custody by the military in May 1999. They were held incommunicado and were tortured in order to force them to sign self-incriminating statements. Prison staff continued to harass and intimidate them while they were in detention awaiting trial. In August 2000, they were sentenced to respectively six years and eight months, and ten years' imprisonment.

No further action is required at present. Thank you to all who sent appeals.