

# URGENT ACTION

## THREATS AGAINST COMMUNITY WORKER IN MEXICO

**Adolfo Guzmán Ordaz, a community Indigenous rights activist in Chiapas state, southern Mexico, has received death threats after he filed a complaint against police. He has reported the threats to the authorities, but so far the authorities have made inadequate efforts to protect him.**

**Adolfo Guzmán** works for Enlace Comunicación y Capacitación (Communication and Training Link), a community organization providing human rights and sustainable economic development training for Indigenous communities.

On 6 January, as Adolfo Guzmán, his wife and two children, returned home in the early evening, they found a note at the front door, saying “death, death, death” (muerte, muerte, muerte). Earlier that day, state police officers had been to the house, and finding that he was not at home, had asked neighbours where he was. In the early hours of 25 December, as Adolfo Guzmán and his family came home from a Christmas celebration, he received an anonymous telephone call saying “Happy Christmas, as this is going to be your last Christmas” (Feliz Navidad, porque esta va ser tu última Navidad).

On 14 December, another note was pushed under Adolfo Guzmán's front door, saying “Stop it or you'll die” (no sigan se van a morir). This occurred two days before Adolfo Guzmán was due to attend a court hearing concerning a complaint he had filed against state police. Fearing for his safety, Adolfo Guzmán did not attend the hearing, but he reported all threats to the Chiapas State Public Prosecutor's Office.

Adolfo Guzmán's complaint follows a search of his house by state police on 8 November. About 20 state judicial police officers (Policía Ministerial) entered the house without showing a warrant and intimidated him and his family, including by pointing a gun at Adolfo Guzmán's wife. The police said they were looking for “someone”, without specifying who this was. The search was apparently ordered by state authorities, who were looking for the organizers of recent protests outside public buildings and blocking roads. The protests were led by local farmers and sellers demanding a space to sell their produce.

### PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language, calling on the authorities to:

- provide immediate and effective protection measures for Adolfo Guzmán and his family, in accordance with their wishes, so they can pursue their complaint against the police;
- conduct a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats received by Adolfo Guzmán and his family, with the results made public and those found responsible brought to justice.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 26 FEBRUARY 2009 TO:

#### Minister of the Interior

Lic. Fernando Francisco Gómez-Mont  
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](mailto:secretario@segob.gob.mx)  
Salutation: Señor Secretario/Dear  
Minister

#### Governor of Chiapas

Lic. Juan José Sabines Guerrero  
Gobernador del Estado de Chiapas  
Palacio de Gobierno,  
1º piso, Col. Centro, C.P. 29000, Tuxtla  
Gutiérrez, Chiapas, MEXICO  
Fax: +52 961 618 8050, ext.: 21122  
Email: [juansabines@chiapas.gob.mx](mailto:juansabines@chiapas.gob.mx)  
Salutation: Dear Governor/Señor  
Gobernador

#### Chiapas Attorney General

Mtro. Raciél López Salazar  
Procurador General de Justicia del  
Estado de Chiapas  
Libramiento no. 2010, Col. El Bosque,  
Tuxtla Gutiérrez, MEXICO, CP 29049  
Fax: +52 961 6165724  
Email: [raciel.lopez@mje.chiapas.gob.mx](mailto:raciel.lopez@mje.chiapas.gob.mx)  
Salutation: Dear Attorney General /  
Señor Procurador

**COPIES TO:** Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de las Casas, AC, Email: [frayba@frayba.org.mx](mailto:frayba@frayba.org.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

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