

# URGENT ACTION

## LIVES OF KIDNAPPED MIGRANTS AT RISK

**Migrants travelling on the top of a freight train in Tabasco state, Mexico, have been kidnapped by armed men. Their lives and that of those who witnessed the kidnap are at risk.**

On 19 February, around a hundred migrants were travelling on the top of a freight train through Tabasco state in southern Mexico. After passing through the small community of Faisán Vía, the train was intercepted by officials from the National Migrants Service who stopped the train and conducted an operation to detain all irregular migrants (migrants who do not have legal permission to enter or remain in the country) travelling on the train. The migration officials detained many of the migrants but others ran off to the side of the tracks and escaped detention. Minutes after the migration officials left the scene, seven armed men appeared and rounded up around ten of the migrants who had escaped detention. Three of the ten migrants were able to escape and made it back to a migrants' shelter in Tenosique, Tabasco state, where they told their story.

The three witnesses, one woman and two men, arrived at Tenosique migrants shelter with several injuries sustained while they ran to escape the gun shots of the armed men during their escape. According to their testimonies, before they escaped they saw the armed men pull one of the female migrant's clothes off and take her away along with two other men. The whereabouts of these migrants is unknown. A preliminary investigation has been opened with the Federal Prosecutors Office.

Amnesty International has documented several other cases in which operations to detain irregular migrants on freight trains in isolated areas have been followed shortly afterwards by attacks by armed men on migrants.

### PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- calling for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the alleged kidnapping of at least 3 migrants on 19 February and insisting the authorities take immediate steps to establish their whereabouts and secure their release;
- calling on the authorities to investigate operations carried out by migration officials that have coincided with attacks on migrants by criminal gangs;
- calling on the authorities to provide the migrants who witnessed the kidnapping on 19 February with temporary visas and protection, so they can testify against those responsible without fear of reprisals or repatriation.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 5 APRIL 2011 TO:

#### Minister of the Interior

Lic. José Francisco Blake Mora  
Secretaría de Gobernación  
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez  
Delegación Cuauhtémoc  
México D.F., C.P.06600, MÉXICO  
Fax: (+52) 55 5093 3414  
Email: [secretario@segob.gob.mx](mailto:secretario@segob.gob.mx)

**Salutation: Dear Minister/Estimado Señor Secretario**

Governor of Tabasco State

Lic. Andres Granier Melo  
Gobernador del Estado de Tabasco  
Palacio de Gobierno  
Independencia numero 2  
Colonia Centro, Villahermosa, 86000  
Estado de Tabasco  
Fax: +52 9933 14 26 12  
Email: [gobernador@tabasco.gob.mx](mailto:gobernador@tabasco.gob.mx)

**Salutation: Dear Governor/ Estimado Gobernador**

#### **And copies to:**

Migrants rights organization:  
Dimensión Pastoral de la Movilidad Humana  
Email: [jornalerosdpmh@hotmail.com](mailto:jornalerosdpmh@hotmail.com)

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hundreds of thousands of people attempt to travel through Mexico from central and South America every year to reach the USA. Many are detained by the Mexican migration authorities and returned to their countries of origin. Amnesty International recently visited Mexico to investigate reports of human rights violations against these people. They found that many had been kidnapped by gangs, sometimes with the complicity of local officials. These gangs and the corrupt officials are rarely brought to justice and people who file complaints against them may face reprisals and swift deportation. This impunity has allowed abuses against the migrants, who are extremely vulnerable, to increase since about 2003, despite government commitments to ensure respect of migrants' rights.

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