

URGENT ACTION

LAWYER AT RISK AFTER PARTNER KILLED

Lawyer Ernesto Rábago Martínez was shot and killed in his office in Chihuahua City, northern Mexico. He and his female partner, Estela Ángeles Mondragón, had previously been threatened and attacked because of their legal work for an Indigenous community involved in a land dispute. Estela Ángeles Mondragón and her daughter are in grave danger.

Ernesto Rábago was shot and killed on 2 March in the office he shares with his partner, **Estela Mondragón**. The two lawyers had been representing a group of Raramuri Indigenous People from the village of Bakéachi, in Carichí municipality, Chihuahua state. Part of the land the group live on is occupied illegally by ranchers. On 5 February, an Agrarian Tribunal, a court which rules on land disputes, ordered that the ranchers should leave the land and return it to the Indigenous community. Both Ernesto Rábago and Estela Mondragón have supported "Bowerasa", a charity set up to deliver health, education and legal services to the Indigenous community of Bakéachi.

On 18 February, **the daughter of Ernesto Rábago and Estela Mondragón** was shot in the arm while she was sitting in her car parked in the garage of her home. According to Estela Mondragón, the authorities did not investigate the possibility that the attack may be linked to the work of the girl's parents. Before then, Estela Mondragón had reported to the authorities that she had been threatened on several occasions in relation to her work and that on 28 March 2009, two homemade explosive devices were thrown at Ernesto Rábago and Estela Mondragón's office, setting it on fire. However, no protection measures had been put in place.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling for Estela Mondragón and her daughter to receive effective protection, in consultation with them and in accordance with their wishes;
- Calling for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the killing of Ernesto Rábago in Chihuahua on 2 March including all possible links to his professional activity;
- Reminding the authorities of their commitment to uphold the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders which recognizes the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders and their right to carry out their activities without obstacles or fear of reprisals.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 15 APRIL 2010 TO:

Minister of the Interior

Lic. Fernando Francisco Gómez-Mont
Secretario de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez,
Delegación Cuauhtémoc, México D.F.,
06600, MÉXICO

Fax: +52 55 5093 3414

Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx

Salutation: Sr. Ministro/Dear Minister

Governor of Chihuahua State

Lic. José Reyes Baeza Terrazas
Gobernador del Estado de Chihuahua,
Palacio de Gobierno, 1er piso, C.
Aldama #901, Col. Centro,
Chihuahua, Estado de Chihuahua, C.P.
31000, MEXICO

**Fax: +52 614 429 3300 (then dial
extension 11066 when prompted)**

Email: gobernador@chihuahua.gob.mx

**Salutation: Dear Governor/Señor
Gobernador**

Attorney General of Chihuahua state

Patricia González Rodríguez
Procuradora del Estado de Chihuahua
Procuraduría General de Justicia del
Estado

Vicente Guerrero 616, Col. Centro
Chihuahua 31000, MEXICO

Email:

pagonzalez@buzon.chihuahua.gob.mx

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/
Señora Procuradora General**

**COPIES TO: Human rights organization Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres, Av. Juárez 4107/B, Chihuahua, México,
Email: accion@cedehm.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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

LAWYER AT RISK AFTER PARTNER KILLED

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Human rights defenders in Mexico face threats, attacks, politically motivated criminal charges and imprisonment for leading protests or promoting respect for human rights. The government has agreed to provide protection measures to defenders at risk, but has yet to develop a mechanism for delivering effective and credible protection in many cases. In particular, the investigations into those behind threats and attacks rarely result in the prosecution of perpetrators; impunity is the general rule in these cases, leaving open the possibility of further attacks. For more information, please read Amnesty International's latest report: "Standing up for justice and dignity. Human rights defenders in Mexico", AI Index: AMR 41/032/2010: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/032/2009/en>

UA: 48/10 Index: AMR 41/017/2010 Issue Date: 4 March 2010

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

