

URGENT ACTION

COMMUNITY LEADER ARRESTED AND BEATEN

A leader of a community-based organization which opposes the construction of the La Parota dam near Acapulco, Guerrero state, was arrested on 17 June and was reportedly beaten and threatened while in custody. He has been denied access to his lawyer and is at risk of further ill-treatment.

On 17 June **Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz**, a leader of the Communal Farms and Communities Council opposed to the Parota (Consejo de Ejidos y Comunidades Opositores a la Parota, CECOP), was arrested in the Bora Bora neighbourhood of Acapulco, Guerrero state, by investigative police of the state Attorney General's Office. CECOP is a community-based organization opposed to construction of the La Parota dam on the Papagayo river, 30 km outside of Acapulco in Guerrero state. Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz was apparently arrested on the basis of a warrant for violent robbery and attempted murder (*despojo agravado y tentativa de homicidio*). His detention and prosecution may be politically motivated in order to undermine opposition to the dam.

According to information received Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz was arrested in a major police operation, and was then beaten and threatened while being transported to a prison in Acapulco. Later the same day he was transferred to a federal prison in Tepic, Nayarit state, 1000 km from Acapulco, without apparent legal justification. His defence lawyer was prevented from seeing him before he was transferred. Being transferred to distant high security prisons without justification results in the effective denial of access to legal counsel and the outside world, hindering victims from filing complaints of human rights violations and denying them the right to effectively defend themselves against any charges brought against them.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to initiate an immediate investigation into allegations of Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz's ill-treatment, of his irregular transfer to Tepic, and of the denial of his access to legal counsel;
- Calling for him to be granted immediate and regular access to his defence lawyer, his family and an independent doctor, and for his physical and mental safety to be guaranteed;
- Reminding the authorities of their obligation to guarantee the right to fair trial and to not be arbitrarily detained on the basis of unreliable or spurious evidence.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 4 AUGUST 2014 TO:

Governor of Guerrero state
Lic. Ángel Heladio Aguirre Rivero
Palacio de Gobierno Edificio Centro 2do
Piso, Col. Ciudad de los Servicios
C.P. 39074 Chilpancingo
Guerrero, México
Fax: +52 747 471 9956 / 0908 (keep
trying, and ask for "fax")
Email:
secretariaparticulargb@guerrero.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Governor

Minister of Interior
Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong
Secretario de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, col. Juárez, C.P. 6600,
México D.F., México
Fax: +52 55 5093 3414 (keep trying)
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:
Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre
Email: tlachinollan.difusion@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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Over the last decade some members of peasant farmer and Indigenous communities which will be affected by the creation of the dam have campaigned against its construction, with Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz and the CECOP at the forefront of the opposition movement. The project would raise the level of an existing dam and flood large tracts of surrounding land. In 2007 community votes and legal actions led to the suspension of the project, however it is still strongly promoted by the Federal Electricity Commission as well as state and federal authorities.

Name: Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz

Gender m/f: m

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