

# URGENT ACTION

## CRIME REPORTERS MISSING IN MEXICO

**A male correspondent for newspaper *Cambio de Michoacán*, in Michoacán state, western Mexico, has been missing since 6 April. A female reporter for the same newspaper has been missing since November. Both were abducted after reporting on local crime and corruption. It is feared that, like two journalists from Michoacán who went missing a few years ago, their whereabouts may never be known.**

**Ramón Ángeles Zalpa** was last seen on 6 April as he left his home in Paracho, Michoacán state. He had reported on organized crime and on an armed attack on an Indigenous family by a local criminal gang. He had received anonymous phone calls to his home two days before he went missing. His family may be at risk of attack by the local criminal gang members. Another reporter, **María Esther Aguilar Cansimbe**, was last seen on 11 November 2009, as she left her home in Zamora, Michoacán state, to meet a contact. She had recently reported on organized crime and corrupt officials. The families of the missing journalists have not been contacted for ransom and investigations opened by the State Attorney General's Office have not yielded any results.

Two more male journalists from Michoacán state, **Mauricio Estrada Zamora** and **José Antonio García Apac** went missing in 2008 and in 2006 respectively. They are presumed to be abducted, and have never been found or those responsible for their abduction identified.

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

- Calling on the authorities to take immediate steps to investigate the abduction of Ramón Ángeles Zalpa and establish his whereabouts, including all possible links to his professional activity;
- Calling for the family of Ramón Ángeles Zalpa to receive effective protection, in consultation with them and in accordance with their wishes;
- Calling on the federal and state authorities to conduct an effective and thorough investigation into the abduction of Maria Esther Aguilar Cansimbe, Mauricio Estrada Zamora and José Antonio García Apac including all possible links to their professional activity;
- Urging federal and state measures to improve the security of journalists in Michoacán to ensure their right to freedom of expression with fear of reprisal by criminal gangs.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 MAY 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 Michoacán State

Mtro. Leonel Godoy Rangel  
Palacio de Gobierno  
1er. Patio planta alta, Av. Madero  
Poniente No. 63, Morelia C.P. 58000,  
Michoacán, MEXICO

**Fax: +52 443 312-17-05**

**Salutation: Dear Governor/ Señor  
Gobernador**

#### Special Federal Prosecutor

Lic. Gustavo Salas Chávez  
FEADP, Blvd. Adolfo López Mateos  
#2836, Col. Tizapán San Ángel, Del.  
Álvaro Obregón, México D.F., C.P.  
01090, MÉXICO

**Fax: +52 55 5346 3182**

**Email: gustavo.salas@pgr.gob.mx**

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/  
Señor Procurador General**

**COPIES TO: Human rights organizationmailto: Article 19, Medellín 33 Col. Roma, México D.F. 06140, Email: [mexico@article19.org](mailto:mexico@article19.org).**

**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**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

According to some sources, across Mexico at least 20 journalists have been murdered since December 2006, and 62 have been killed since 2000. Most of these cases remain unsolved, and at the end of 2009, eight journalists were still missing. To combat crime against journalists, the federal government established the Federal Special Prosecutor on Crimes against Journalists (Fiscalía Especial para la Atención de Delitos Cometidos Contra Periodistas, FEADP) in 2006 as a result of the failure of state-level authorities to prevent and investigate attacks on journalists. However, the FEADP has also proved ineffective at ending impunity for these crimes. This has made it increasingly difficult for local media organizations to report openly on crime.

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