

URGENT ACTION

KEY MOMENT IN MURDER CASE AGAINST ACTIVIST

The judge presiding over the murder case against prisoner of conscience and indigenous human rights defender Raúl Hernández has closed the period of evidence submission and will issue a verdict within weeks.

On 30 June, the judge presiding over the case against indigenous human rights defender, Raúl Hernández, closed the evidence submission stage of his trial for murder. During the criminal enquiry, the judge carried out an investigation of the crime scene, which confirmed that the eyewitness evidence, claiming that Raúl Hernández was present at the time of the murder, is unreliable. This eyewitness evidence is the sole evidence in this case. The State Attorney General's Office of Guerrero will be asked over the next few weeks for its conclusions on the case. This gives the Attorney General the opportunity to recommend that the judicial case against Raúl Hernández is dropped.

Amnesty International adopted the indigenous rights defender as a prisoner of conscience in November 2008 and believes that the charges against him are politically motivated.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Stating that Raúl Hernández is a prisoner of conscience, wrongfully accused of murder in reprisal for his legitimate work to promote indigenous rights and calling for his immediate and unconditional release;
- Urging that the State Attorney General's Office of Guerrero recommends that the judicial case for murder against Raúl Hernández is dropped;
- Calling for a thorough and impartial investigation into the misuse of the judicial system to wrongfully imprison Raúl Hernández

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 AUGUST 2010 TO:

Attorney General Office of Guerrero

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Procuraduría General de Justicia de Guerrero
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Minister of the Interior

Lic. Fernando Francisco Gómez-Mont
Secretaría de Gobernación
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Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx

Governor of Guerrero

Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo
Palacio de Gobierno
Edificio Centro, Piso 2
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Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the fourth update of UA 314/08. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/059/2008/en>; <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/006/2009/en>; <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/015/2009/en>; <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/045/2010/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 17 April 2008, Raúl Hernández of the Me'phaa Indigenous People's Organization (OPIM) was detained and charged with the murder of Alejandro Feliciano García on 1 January 2008 in the village of El Camalote, Guerrero state. Amnesty International has adopted the indigenous rights defender as a prisoner of conscience and believes that the charges against him are politically motivated.

Raúl Hernández was denied an injunction by a federal judge on the grounds that two alleged witnesses had testified to his presence when the victim was shot. However, eyewitness testimonies that Raúl Hernández was not present at the time of the murder have not been taken into consideration. Raúl Hernández has appealed against the decision to deny an injunction in his case.

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