

# URGENT ACTION

## MIGRANTS IN DANGER AS WOMAN FOUND DEAD

**The body of a female migrant from Honduras has been found near the San Juan Diego migrants' shelter in Lecheria, Mexico state. Amnesty International is gravely concerned about migrants travelling through the area.**

**María Marisol Ortiz Hernández** visited San Juan Diego migrants' shelter with her son for a short period of time on 30 September and returned again on 1 October. She told the priest who runs the shelter that she was trying to return to Honduras and wanted to be repatriated. However, at the time María Marisol Ortiz Hernández had been granted a temporary visa by the National Migration Institute of Mexico. Two weeks later, María Marisol Ortiz Hernández's body was found by the side of the train tracks in Lecheria with injuries indicating strangulation.

María Marisol Ortiz Hernández's body was found close to the place where the body of a Guatemalan migrant, **Julio Fernando Cardona Agustín**, was found in August. According to witnesses, the injuries sustained suggest that he was beaten to death in the head.

Amnesty International believes that criminal gangs preying on vulnerable migrants travelling through the Lecheria area are operating with impunity and the authorities have not done enough to combat their activities and improve protection for migrants.

### **Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:**

- Call for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the murders of María Marisol Ortiz Hernández and Julio Fernando Cardona Agustín and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- Express concern for the safety of migrants, particularly women and children, travelling through Lecheria, Mexico state;
- Call for immediate protection measures for staff, volunteers and migrants at the San Juan Diego migrants' shelter, to be implemented in accordance with their wishes.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 NOVEMBER 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

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

Governor of Mexico state

Enrique Peña Nieto  
Lerdo Poniente Numero 300,  
Primer Piso, Puerta 216,  
Palacio Del Poder Ejecutivo,  
Colonia Centro, CP 50000  
Toluca, Estado de México, México  
Fax: +52 722 2760046  
Email: cnm@gem.gob.mx

**Salutation: Dear  
Governor/Estimado  
Gobernador**

**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 2nd update of UA 16/11. Further information:  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/003/2011/en> and <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/051/2011/en>

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hundreds of thousands of irregular migrants (those without official travel documents) 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. During the visit, Amnesty International found that many had been kidnapped by gangs, sometimes with the complicity of local officials. Criminal gangs are also involved in trafficking. Impunity for abuses against migrants, who are extremely vulnerable, has allowed these abuses to increase, despite government commitments to ensure respect of migrants' rights.

Amnesty International recently made a film documenting the plight of Central American migrant travelling through Mexico, you can watch it and take action here: [www.youtube.com/invisiblesfilms](http://www.youtube.com/invisiblesfilms)

Name: Migrants in the Lecheria area, Mexico State, including Julio Fernando Cardona Agustín and María Marisol Ortiz Hernández's; also staff, volunteers and migrants at the San Juan Diego migrants' shelter  
Gender m/f: Both male and female

Further information on UA: 16/11 Index: AMR 41/064/2011 Issue Date: 17 October 2011