

URGENT ACTION

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION IN DANGER, TWO SHOT

Two members of a community organisation that opposes mining operations in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca were shot and wounded on 16 June. They and other members of the organisation are at risk of further attacks.

Bertín Vázquez Ruíz and **Guadalupe Andrés Vázquez Ruiz** were shot and wounded by three men in a pickup truck in the evening of 16 June. Both men are members of the Coordination of United Peoples of the Valley of Ocotlán, (Coordinadora de Pueblos Unidos del Valle de Ocotlán, CPUVO), and were standing with other CPUVO members outside the town hall in San José del Progreso, in Oaxaca State, at the time.

Bertín Vázquez Ruíz was hit in the stomach, and his condition is stable but serious. Guadalupe Andrés Vázquez Ruiz was hit in the leg and hand. He has been discharged from hospital in a stable condition. According to the CPUVO and a local human rights organisation, three men in the car were identified as a municipal official, the son of the municipal president and an employee of a local mining company.

The CPUVO is a community organisation that opposes the presence of a mine that has been operating in the municipality of San José del Progreso since 2006, when the municipal authorities granted it a concession for exploitation of silver and gold. The leader of the organisation, Bernardo Vázquez Sánchez, was shot dead on 15 March 2012, while driving with his family on a highway in Ocotlán.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Demanding that the authorities carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation of the shooting on 16 June of Bertín Vázquez Ruíz and Guadalupe Andrés Vázquez Ruiz, and bring those responsible to justice;
- Urging them to provide protection to Bertín Vázquez Ruíz and Guadalupe Andrés Vázquez Ruiz, and all other members of the CPUVO, in accordance with their wishes.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 AUGUST 2012 TO:

Oaxaca State Attorney General
Lic. Manuel de Jesús López López
Centro administrativo del Poder Ejecutivo y Judicial General Porfirio Díaz
Edificios Jesús "Chu" Rasgado y Alvaro Carrillo, Oaxaca de Juárez
Oaxaca, Mexico
Fax: +52 951 501 6900 (dial 20635 after automatic answer)
Email: procuradoroaxaca@hotmail.com
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Minister of the Interior
Dr. Alejandro Poiré Romero
Secretaría de Gobernación
Bucareli 99, 1er. piso, Col. Juárez
Delegación Cuauhtémoc
México D.F., C.P.06600, Mexico
Fax: +52 55 5093 3414
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx
Twitter: @AlejandroPoire
Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:
Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos "Bartolomé Carrasco Briseño" A.C.
Calle Galeana 620
Centro.
Oaxaca, Mexico,
C.P. 68000.
Email: barcadh@prodigy.net.mx

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**



URGENT ACTION

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION IN DANGER, TWO SHOT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In 2006, a mining concession was granted by the municipal authorities of San José del Progreso to a company called Cuzcatlán., a subsidiary of the Canadian mining company Fortuna Silver Mines Inc. The CPUVO oppose the mine and have carried out various protests against its operation. The CPUVO and a local human rights organisation claim that the municipal authorities granted the company the mining concession without consulting with or informing the affected communities.

For many years, the communities of San José del Progreso have suffered social and political tension, particularly in relation to the political control exercised by the municipal authorities. The presence of the mine has exacerbated these tensions and the authorities have failed to ensure that attacks on those opposed to the mine are prevented or punished. One of the members of the CPUVO, Bernardo Méndez Vázquez, was killed on 18 January 2012, and their former leader, Bernardo Vázquez Sánchez, was murdered on 15 March 2012.

Names: Bertín Vázquez Ruíz, Guadalupe Andrés Vázquez Ruiz

Gender m/f: Both male

UA: 178/12 Index: AMR 41/044/2012 Issue Date: 21 June 2012