

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST LEADER AND WIFE KILLED IN MEXICO

An environmental activist leader and his wife have been killed in Chihuahua state, northern Mexico. This event follows a pattern of death threats and there are fears for the security of other members of the family and other leaders of the activists' organization.

On 22 October, the dead body of activist **Ismael Solorio Urrutia** was found with a shot to the head, and his wife **Manuela Solís Contreras** with a shot the chest. They had been on their way to a medical appointment in Chihuahua City. Both were members of El Barzón, a smallholder farmers' movement in Chihuahua. Chihuahua State suffers from a shortage of water; Ismael Solorio Urrutia had been campaigning to improve access to water.

Amnesty International has been informed that there had been a repeated pattern of threats. In September, Ismael Solorio Urrutia and other members of the organization received death threats from an unknown man. Formal complaints about these threats were filed with the Chihuahua State Interior Minister (*Secretario de Gobierno del Estado de Chihuahua*). The threats continued, and on 13 October Ismael Solorio Urrutia and his son were attacked and beaten by someone who allegedly worked for a mining company indirectly involved in the dispute over water access. On 15 October, members of El Barzón asked to meet with the Secretary of Government of Chihuahua State, to request his intervention to prevent further attacks and hold to account those responsible for the death threats. The authorities denied the request and measures were not implemented.

El Barzón has been campaigning against the establishment of a mining company in the communal farm (*Ejido*) Benito Juárez, municipality of Buenaventura, Chihuahua state. Currently, the El Barzón activists are participating in protests (*plantón*) in front of the offices of the state authorities in Chihuahua City, demanding the Governor takes action to ensure justice.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the federal and state authorities to guarantee the safety of Ismael Solorio Urrutia's family and leader members of the movement El Barzón, Chihuahua;
- Demanding the authorities carry out a swift, full and impartial investigation into the killing of Ismael Solorio Urrutia and his wife Manuela Solís Contreras, and bring those responsible to justice;
- Urging the authorities to investigate the pattern of threats received by Ismael Solorio Urrutia and members of the movement El Barzón, Chihuahua.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 6 DECEMBER 2012 TO:

Chihuahua State Interior Minister
Lic. Raymundo Romero Maldonado
Palacio de Gobierno 1er Piso
Calle Aldama No. 901
Colonia Centro C.P. 31000
Chihuahua, Chih. Mexico
Fax: +52 614 4299 341

Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Interior
Dr. Alejandro Poiré Romero
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

And copies to:

Local Organization
Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres, CEDEHM
Email:
comunicacion.cedehm@gmail.com

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Name: Ismael Solorio Urrutia (m), Manuela Solís Contreras (f), members of El Barzón
Gender m/f: both

UA: 320/12 Index: AMR 41/070/2012 Issue Date: 25 October 2012