

URGENT ACTION

VICTIMS' FAMILY BURGLED, IN DANGER

Five members of a family in western Mexico were subjected to enforced disappearance in the early 1970s. The rest of the family have been seeking truth and justice; their home was burgled on 29 November, and some of their paperwork about the enforced disappearances was stolen. The family is now in danger.

Members of the **Guzmán Cruz family** found on 29 November that their home in the Tarejero community, in the western state of Michoacán, had been broken into and important paperwork had been stolen. It related to the enforced disappearance of five members of the family. Their cases have been submitted to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, IACHR (*Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos*). The burglars had disturbed parts of the house, but concentrated on the rooms containing paperwork, a computer and a video camera with materials related to the family's long struggle for truth and justice. The burglars had taken some cash, but ignored other valuables, suggesting they had only been interested in the paperwork.

The front door of the house had been damaged on 12 October by a car crashing into the house. The family have filed formal complaints with the Michoacán state Public Prosecutors' Office (*Ministerio Público*) about this as well as the 29 November burglary.

Members of the Guzmán Cruz family have been harassed before now in reprisal for their demand for justice for the enforced disappearance of five family members between 1974 and 1976. A man who said he was working for the Federal Attorney General's Office (*Procuraduría General de la República, PGR*) contacted the family and asked for a meeting to update them on the investigation into the enforced disappearances. According to the family, during the conversation it became clear that the PGR representative knew the telephone numbers and addresses of various members of the Guzmán Cruz family, suggesting the family was being monitored. The family had previously asked the PGR to conduct all official communication with them via the human rights organizations representing the family.

Please write immediately in Spanish, English or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to ensure the safety of the Guzmán Cruz family and implement protection measures, in accordance with the family's wishes;
- Calling on them to order a full and impartial investigation into the burglary of their home and the theft of information and equipment relating to the enforced disappearance of five family members;
- Urging them to respect the family's wishes regarding the investigation of the enforced disappearances and cease any surveillance or monitoring of family members.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 17 JANUARY 2013 TO:

Attorney General of Michoacán

Plácido Torres Pineda
Periférico Independencia # 5000,
Sentimientos de la Nación, C.P. 58170.
Morelia, Mich.
Fax: +52 443 299 6460
Email: pgje@michoacan.gob.mx
Salutation: **Dear Attorney General**

Minister of the Interior

Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong
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
Salutation: **Dear Minister**

And copies to:

Local NGO
Centro Prodh
Email:
comunicacion@centroprodh.org.mx

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives 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

Several cases of grave human rights violations committed in the 1970s have been taken to the Inter-American Human Rights system as they have been denied truth and justice in Mexico. Relatives of victims of human rights violations have been threatened and harassed because of their efforts to press the authorities for justice and hold those responsible to account. Official investigations rarely result in those behind the threats being brought to justice.

Name: Guzmán Cruz family

Gender m/f: m & f

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