

# URGENT ACTION

## HOME BURNT DOWN AS FAMILY PROTEST

The home of the Reyes family in Guadalupe, outside Ciudad Juárez, northern Mexico, was burnt down on 15 February while family members protested outside the Chihuahua State Attorney General's Office. The home of a local human rights defender, Maria Luisa Andrade, was also damaged in an arson attack as she participated in the same protest.

Following the 7 February abduction of **Malena Reyes**, **Elías Reyes** and his wife **Luisa Ornelas**, their sister **Marisela Reyes** and mother **Sara Salazar** have been protesting outside the State Attorney General's Office. They have been demanding that an immediate and effective investigation into their abduction is conducted and their relatives are located and released unharmed. Marisela Reyes and other members of the family have been on hunger strike to pressure the authorities to take action. On 15 February, the family home in the town of Guadalupe, outside Ciudad Juárez in the Valle de Juárez, was burnt down by an armed gang using homemade petrol bombs.

Sympathisers, members of social groups and local human rights defenders joined the family's protest to support their call for action by the authorities. On the night of 16 February, the home of **Maria Luisa Andrade**, a well known human rights defender with Nuestras Hijas de Regreso a Casa (Our Daughters Return Home), who was participating in the protest, was also damaged in an arson attack by unknown individuals.

Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of the Reyes family and others participating in the protests. Another demonstration is due to take place on 18 February. Amnesty international is not aware of any protection measures taken by the authorities to guarantee the safety of those at risk or of any advances in the investigation of the abduction of Malena Reyes, Elías Reyes and his wife Luisa Ornelas.

### PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of the Marisela Reyes, Sara Salazar, other members of the Reyes family and local activists supporting the family in their protest;
- Call for immediate measures to be taken to protect members of the Reyes family and other local human rights activists, including María Luisa García Andrade, to be implemented in accordance with the wishes of those at risk;
- Calling for the arson attack on the Reyes house and the home of María Luisa García Andrade to be investigated promptly and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- Ask the authorities to make public advances in efforts to establish the whereabouts of Malena Reyes, Elías Reyes and his wife Luisa Ornelas and to ensure their safe release, including from custody if held in detention

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 APRIL 2011 TO:

#### Minister of the Interior

Lic. José Francisco Blake Mora  
Secretario, Sec. 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](mailto:secretario@segob.gob.mx)

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

#### Governor of Chihuahua State

Lic. César Duarte  
Gobernador del Estado de Chihuahua,  
Palacio de Gobierno, 1er piso, C.  
Aldama #901, Col. Centro,  
Chihuahua, Estado de Chihuahua, C.P.  
31000, Mexico  
Fax: +52 614 429 3300 (then dial  
extension 11066 when prompted)

**Salutation: Señor Gobernador/  
Dear Governor**

#### State Attorney General

Carlos Manuel Salas  
Fiscalía General del Estado  
Edificio de Procuraduría 3 Piso A,  
C. Vicente Guerrero # 616  
Col. Centro C.P. 31000 Chihuahua  
Fax + 52 614 4150314

**Salutation: Dear Sir, Estimado  
Fiscal General**

Also send copies to [gustavo.delarosa@gmail.com](mailto:gustavo.delarosa@gmail.com) and diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 01/10. Further information:  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/005/2011/en>

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INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 7 February, Malena Reyes, Elías Reyes and his wife Luisa Ornelas were abducted in Guadalupe Distrito Bravos municipality in the Valle de Juárez, east of Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua state. The three were travelling in a truck together with Sara Salazar, the mother of Malena Reyes, Elías Reyes and Josefina Reyes, and Josefina Reyes' daughter. Armed men stopped the truck and forced Sara Salazar and the young child to get out of the vehicle. They then drove off with Malena Reyes, Elías Reyes and Luisa Ornelas, leaving Sara Salazar and the young child on the side of the road.

Since 2007, violence linked to organized crime has spiralled in Mexico. The media has reported more than 30,000 drug cartel related killings. The majority of these murders have occurred in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua state. President Calderón's administration has attempted to combat the drug cartels by deploying thousands of federal police and over 50,000 military personnel in the worst affected areas, particularly Ciudad Juárez. However this has not resulted in a reduction in violence. According to the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), reports of abuses by the military, including unlawful killings, torture, arbitrary detentions and illegal house searches increased significantly since 2006. These cases are routinely investigated and tried by the military justice system, which does not guarantee an impartial and independent investigation, resulting in impunity for the vast majority of perpetrators. As a result victims and their relatives are denied an effective recourse to justice, and military officials are aware that they are extremely unlikely to be held to account.

Further information on UA: 01/10 Index: AME 41/006/2011 Issue Date: 18 February 2011

