

URGENT ACTION

POLICE ALLOWING THREATS TO MIGRANTS IN MEXICO

Migrants and staff at the Belén Migrants shelter (*Belén, Posada del Migrante*) in the Mexican state of Coahuila are in danger because the state police are not properly protecting them. One migrant was recently threatened in full view of a policeman, who did not take any action.

On 25 February, one of the migrants in charge of guarding the entrance to Belén Migrants shelter, in Saltillo, Coahuila state, was approached by an unidentified woman. When the migrant would not let her in, she retreated to a car where five others were waiting for her. The people in the car then started to threaten the migrant saying that they would come for him and that if they wanted to they could remove him from the shelter.

Because the Belén Migrants shelter has been granted protection measures by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, there is a State police patrol car stationed in front of the shelter at all times. The policeman on duty at the time witnessed all the threats to the migrant but did not intervene to protect him. All he did was to tell the migrant to shut the shelter entrance door because the people looked suspicious. He told the migrant: "What are you complaining about? They didn't even do anything to you." ("no paso nada, para que se quejan? Ni se la hicieron de pedo ni nada.")

Amnesty International is gravely concerned that the protection measures granted by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and National Human Rights Commission have not been fully implemented, and those at the shelter remain at risk. The threats and attacks against migrants in Saltillo and staff running the shelter may escalate further.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to implement the protection measures ordered by the National Human Rights Commission and the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and already agreed by the shelter's director and the authorities;
- Calling on the authorities to guarantee the safety of the staff at the Belén Migrants' Shelter so that they can continue their work to defend the rights of migrants in Saltillo;
- Calling on the authorities to investigate all abuses against migrants and the staff who run the shelters;

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 12 MARCH 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 30032900 ext. 32356
 Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx

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

Governor of Coahuila

Profesor Humberto Moreira Valdés
 Gobernador del Estado de Coahuila
 Palacio de Gobierno, 1er. Piso Juárez e
 Hidalgo s/n, Saltillo, C.P. 25000
 Coahuila, MÉXICO
 Fax: +52 844 438 0728 (and say: me
 puede dar tono de fax por favor)
 Email: s.particular@coahuila.gob.mx
 Salutation: Dear Governor

And copies to:

Belén Migrants' Shelter
humanidadsinfronterasac@yahoo.com.mx

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 4th update of UA 277/09. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/053/2009/en>, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/057/2009/en>, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/060/2010/en>, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/089/2010/en>

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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. Impunity for abuses against migrants, who are extremely vulnerable, has allowed these abuses to increase, despite government commitments to ensure respect of migrants' rights.

Further information on UA: 277/09 Index: AMR 41/009/2011 Issue Date: 01 March 2011

