

# URGENT ACTION

## MIGRANTS' RIGHTS WORKERS THREATENED

**Members of staff working at the Usumacinta Human Rights Centre (Centro de Derechos Humanos del Usumacinta, A.C) in the town of Tenosique, Tabasco state, southern Mexico, have been repeatedly threatened and intimidated. Amnesty International believes that these threats are in reprisal for their human rights work, particularly on migrants' rights.**

Three members of staff working at the Usumacinta Human Rights Centre have been repeatedly subjected to acts of intimidation and attack. On 29 June, the Director of the Human Rights Centre, **Ezequiel Serafín Esteban**, was leaving work on his motorbike when a van with tinted windows closed in on him and forced him off the road. He fell off his motorbike and was injured as a result. The driver of the van has not been identified.

**Minelia Aguilar May**, a member of staff responsible for migrants' rights at the Human Rights Centre, has reported that she has repeatedly noticed vans with tinted windows parked in front of the entrance of her house. On 14 July, Minelia Aguilar May was followed by one of the vans as she left her house the van narrowly missed her as it drove past her.

According to **Fredi Flores Mecia**, who also works on migrants' rights at the Human Rights Centre, he has been repeatedly detained by the local Municipal Police based on unfounded allegations. Since May 2011 he has been detained three times. During these arrests the Municipal Police officers have reportedly insulted the Usumacinta Human Rights Centre. On 19 June, in the latest of a series of baseless detentions, Fredi Flores Mecia was handcuffed to the back of the police van and left out in the rain. Some of the police officers present threatened him saying that the detentions wouldn't stop until he withdrew a complaint he had filed months earlier against the Municipal Police for the ill-treatment he suffered during a previous arrest on 9 October 2010.

Complaints have been filed with Mexico's National Human Rights Commission against all these acts of intimidation.

### Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of Ezequiel Serafín Esteban, Minelia Aguilar May and Fredi Flores Mecia and other staff at the Usumacinta Human Right Centre;
- Calling for authorities to provide immediate protection measures to be implemented in accordance with the wishes of staff at the Usumacinta Human Right Centre to guarantee their safety;
- Calling on the authorities to investigate all attacks, threats and intimidation against staff who run the Usumacinta Human Right Centre and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 30 AUGUST 2011 TO:

#### Minister of the Interior

Lic. José Francisco Blake Mora  
 Secretario de Gobernación  
 Abraham González No.48  
 Col. Juárez, Del. Cuauhtémoc  
 México, D.F, C. P. 06600  
 México  
 Fax: +52 55 50933414 (a voice will ask for  
 the extension: dial 32356)  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

#### Governor of Tabasco

Q.F.B. Andrés Granier Melo  
 Independencia # 2, Col. Centro,  
 Villahermosa, Tabasco,  
 México, CP 86000  
 México  
 Fax: +52 993 314 2612  
 Email: [gobernador@tabasco.gob.mx](mailto:gobernador@tabasco.gob.mx)  
**Salutation: Dear Governor**

#### And copies to:

#### Municipal President of Tenosique

Lic. Raúl Gustavo Gutiérrez Cortés  
 Dirección: Calle 21 X 26 Frente al Parque  
 Central Col. Centro 86900 Tenosique, Tab.  
 México  
 Fax: +52 934 3420036 (ask for fax tone)  
 Email: [presidenciatenosique2010-2012@hotmail.com](mailto:presidenciatenosique2010-2012@hotmail.com)  
**Salutation: Dear President of Municipal**

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Staff at the Usumacinta Human Rights Centre work in close collaboration with “The 72” migrants’ shelter (“La 72” Hogar Refugio para Personas Migrantes) in Tenosique, Tabasco state. In recent months, staff at the migrants' shelter have also been subject to harassment for their work defending migrants' rights.

Amnesty International recently made a film documenting the plight of Central American migrant travelling through Mexico and the people who defend them, you can watch it and take action here: [www.youtube.com/invisiblefilms](http://www.youtube.com/invisiblefilms)

Name: Staff at the Usumacinta Human Right Centre

Gender m/f: both m and f

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**INTERNATIONAL**

