

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Public Statement

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### **Mexico: Statement by Amnesty International on the murder of human rights defender Ricardo Murillo Monge**

Amnesty International expresses its deep sadness at the murder of human rights defender Ricardo Murillo Monge, who was a member of the non-governmental organization (NGO) Frente Cívico Sinaloense, Sinaloan Civic Front, which is in turn part of the Red de Organizaciones Todos los Derechos para Todas y Todos, All Rights for All Network of Organizations. At about 1 am on 6 September 2007, he was found dead with a bullet in his head in the front passenger seat of a vehicle in the city of Culiacán, Sinaloa.

In 1993, together with his sister Mercedes, Ricardo Murillo Monge founded the Sinaloan Civic Front and since then has worked to defend human rights and encourage citizen participation. He was renowned for his work for the human rights of prisoners as well as on grave human rights violations.

Amnesty International calls on the Mexican authorities to carefully preserve the evidence in the case and to carry out an immediate, effective and impartial investigation into the murder of human rights defender Ricardo Murillo Monge.

Amnesty International is concerned that this crime may be related to his work as a human rights defender and therefore believes that other members of the Sinaloan Civic Front may be in danger. The organization therefore calls on the authorities to take whatever steps may be necessary to protect Mercedes Murillo Monge and all members of the Sinaloan Civic Front.

Solving the murder of human rights defender Ricardo Murillo Monge must be a priority for both the state and federal authorities. The protection of other human rights defenders and their ability to carry on with their work without fear or further difficulty is reliant on the authorities demonstrating the will and ability to clarify what happened and to bring those responsible to justice.

Amnesty International will closely monitor their efforts and the protection measures put in place to ensure the safety of other members of the Sinaloan Civic Front.

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