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Lic. Felipe de Jesús Calderón Hinojosa
Presidente Constitucional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
Residencia Oficial de "Los Pinos"
Casa Miguel Aleman
Col. San Miguel Chapultepec
México D.F, CP 11850

18 December 2010

Dear President Calderón

I am writing to you today, on International Migrants Day, to request decisive action from your government to protect all migrants travelling through Mexico and to bring to justice those who commit abuses against them, whether criminal groups or public officials.

Amnesty International welcomes the role the Mexican government has played over many years to strengthen international law to protect migrants' rights, particularly in relation to the many Mexicans living in the USA.

The same commitment is now urgently needed to protect the rights of the tens of thousands of irregular migrants crossing Mexico every year. These women, men and children, mainly from Central America, routinely face ill-treatment, abduction, rape and murder on their journey. Hundreds of migrants just disappear on route. The identity of many bodies is never established and they are buried in unmarked graves. Hundreds of families throughout Central America grieve for those whose fate remains unknown.

The scale of the abuses is undeniable. The National Human Rights Commission reported last year that almost 10,000 abductions of migrants took place over six months and local migrants rights defenders consistently highlighted the lack of effective action by federal and state authorities to protect migrants.

This year Amnesty International published a report, *"Invisible Victims: Migrants on the Move in Mexico"* with a series of recommendations for urgent action by your government. Despite sending you a copy in April, we have yet to receive a response from your office. Last month we launched "The Invisibles" with Gael García Bernal, a film that documents the plight of migrants travelling through Mexico. Hundreds of thousands of people have now watched the film and shared the fear and hope of those making the journey. The film can be viewed online at youtube.com/invisiblesfilms. It is a powerful reminder of the brutal reality faced by some of the world's most vulnerable people and of their determination and hope for a better future.

I welcome your government's recent commitment - in the wake of the terrible mass murder of migrants in Tamaulipas earlier this year - to increase coordination between institutions to combat abuses. But this commitment is not enough to ensure the right level of protection for migrants and an end to impunity for abuses.

I urge you to take personal charge of these measures and make clear that abuses against migrants will not be tolerated. I also urge you to ensure that comprehensive nationwide data on abuses against migrants is gathered and made public along with the steps taken to protect migrants and hold to account those responsible for abuses.

I look forward to receiving your response to the report and film and to our continued dialogue on this pressing issue.

Yours sincerely

Salil Shetty
Secretary General