



InterReligious Task Force on Central America  
 3606 Bridge Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113  
 tel: 216.961.0003 fax: 216.961.0002 e-mail: irtf@igc.org

via fax: 011 52 961 616 5724 Mariano Herran Salvatti Fiscal General de Justicia del Estado de Chiapas	via fax: 011 52 961 612 5618 Pablo Salazar Mendiguchia Gobernador del Estado de Chiapas
via fax: 011 52 55 51 28 02 34 Maestro Ricardo Sepulveda Secretaria de Gobernacion/Derechos Humanos	<b>MEXICO</b>

May 20, 2005

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Taskforce on Central America, are concerned for the safety of **Pascuala Gutierrez Alvarez** as she is at risk of torture or ill-treatment. A Tzeltal indigenous woman, she was arrested without a warrant for an alleged kidnap on 8 April in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas State. She is being detained without charge in a safe house (casa de arraigo o seguridad) at the Prosecutor's Office (Fiscalia General de Justicia del Estado).

Casas de arraigo undermine the fundamental rights of persons in detention, encourage the use of coercion and violate fair trial guarantees.

**We urge you to:**

- Take precautions so that she is not subject to torture, ill-treatment or coercion while in pre-charge detention;
- Allow her full access to her family, lawyer and medical attention, if necessary;
- Charge her with a recognizably criminal offense or release her;
- if she is to be charged, provide due process and fair trial standards
- investigate the legality of her detention and subsequent pre-charge detention;
- end the use of arraigo (pre-charge detention);
- reform legislation to ensure that constitutional guarantees restricting the time period suspects may be held without charge are upheld.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

Cc: Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolome de las Casas ~ 01152 967 678 3551  
 Jesus David Pineda Carpio, Defense Lawyer ~ via U.S. mail  
 Ambassador Carlos Alberto De Icaza Gonzalez ~ 1 202 728 1698  
 Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr, US Ambassador to Mexico ~ fax: 011-52-55-5511-9980  
 William Duncan, Desk Officer for Mexico, US State Department ~ fax: 202.647.9894  
 U.S. Senators DeWine and Voinovich ~ via fax, email  
 U.S. Representatives Brown, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via fax, email

UA # 119/05 MEXICO

**The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter.**