



via FAX: 011 52 951 511 6879 Ulises Ruiz Ortiz Governor of Oaxaca, Mexico	via FAX: 011 52 951 511 5519 Lic. Lizbeth Cana Calez Attorney General of Oaxaca, Mexico
via FAX: 011 525 55 346 0983 Lic. Daniel Cabeza de Vaca Federal Attorney General of Mexico	

September 13, 2006

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are deeply concerned about the excessive and disproportionate force used by government security forces in Oaxaca during popular protest actions. Supporters of the Asamblea Popular del Pueblo de Oaxaca (APPO) and the striking teachers' union Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educacion (SNTE) have been wantonly attacked during protests and pickets. On August 22, **Lorenzo San Pablo Cervantes** was shot and killed by security forces. On August 21, armed individuals shot at APPO supporters who were guarding the transmitter of a local TV and radio station. Teacher **Sergio Vale Jimenez** was shot and seriously injured.

On August 10, activists and **teachers Elionai Santiago Sánchez and Juan Gabriel Rios and biologist Ramiro Aragon Pérez** were detained and beaten by unidentified individuals. All three were then handed over to the Office of the Attorney General in Oaxaca. While the former two have been released on bail, Ramiro Aragon Pérez remains in detention in the prison of Zimatlan de Alvarez in Oaxaca state. We fear that he, too, is at risk of torture.

Another activist, **German Mendoza Nube**, who uses a wheelchair and suffers from diabetes and kidney failure, was detained outside his home on August 9 by police officers in plain clothes. He is being held in Miahuatlan prison in Oaxaca state but has not been allowed access to his wheelchair or dialysis equipment.

In light of the facts presented, we strongly urge you to

- Ensure that security forces are properly commanded and controlled to act appropriately during protests;
- Carry out an independent and impartial investigation into the killing of Lorenzo San Pablo Cervantes and bring those responsible to justice;
- Conduct a prompt and impartial investigation into the torture and beating of Elionai Santiago Sanchez, Juan Gabriel Rios and Ramiro Aragon Perez;
- Revise the charges against detained activists to ensure the evidence against them is adequately substantiated;
- Ensure that German Mendoza Nube receives immediate medical attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator
 Coordinator

cc: Red Oaxaqueña de Derechos Humanos ~ via US mail
 Ambassador Carlos Alberto De Icaza Gonzalez ~ via fax: 202 728 1698
 Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5207-0091
 William Duncan, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202.647.5752
 Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
 US Senators DeWine & Voinovich ~ via email
 US Reps Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

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