

via FAX: 011 52 55 5 277 23 76 Lic. Vicente Fox Quesada President of Mexico	via FAX: 011 525 55 346 0908 Lic Daniel Cabeza de Vaca Attorney General of Mexico
via FAX: 011 52 55 5093 3414 Lic. Carlos Abascal Carranza Secretary of the Interior/Governance	via FAX: 011 52 951 511 6879 Ulises Ruiz Ortiz Governor of the State of Oaxaca, Mexico

October 26, 2006

Dear Sirs:

We continue to be extremely concerned about the continuing violence in Oaxaca, about which we wrote to you on September 13. Violence has escalated as the Mexican Senate refused to uphold the demand of protesters to force the resignation of the Oaxaca State Governor, Ulises Ruiz.

Early on October 14, unidentified armed individuals got out of a van shouting "Arriba Ulises!" and shot several times toward protesters. **Alejandro García Hernández** died from a gunshot to the head; two others were injured. The attackers drove away, but one of them dropped a wallet which identified him as a member of the army. The State Public Prosecutor's Office is supposed to be investigating.

On October 18, as primary school teacher **Panfilo Hernández** was leaving a meeting of the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (APPO), two unidentified individuals shot him point-blank in the abdomen. He died a few hours later in the hospital.

Student **Pedro García García** was released on bail on October 8 after a week in prison in Tlacolula, Oaxaca. He denies the charges of carrying a gun and robbing a passerby. He has filed a complaint of torture because he was beaten and threatened with rape while in custody.

We continue to be concerned that negotiations between federal authorities, protesters and state authorities have not resulted in a political solution to the unrest and that federal and state police might use excessive force to end the control of central Oaxaca City by demonstrators from unions and other civil society groups.

We urge you to

- ensure a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the torture of Pedro García García during his detention;
- conduct a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the murders of Alejandro García Hernández and Panfilo Hernández, and the injuries to other APPO supporters;
- conduct a full inquiry into links between state officials and unidentified armed individuals responsible for these and other crimes, make the findings public and bring those responsible to justice;
- ensure that all federal and state authorities take all measures to fully address the crisis in Oaxaca, respecting international human rights law and avoiding action which may worsen the human rights situation.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Carlos Alberto d Icaza González, Mexico Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 1 202 728 1698
 Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr., US Ambassador to Mexico ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5207-0091
 William Duncan Desk Officer for Mexico ~ via fax: 202.647.5752
 Paolo Carozza Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~via fax: 202.458.3992 or 202.458.6215
 Red Oaxaqueña de Derechos Humanos, human rights group ~ via US mail
 US Senators DeWine & Voinovich ~ via email
 US Representatives 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: