

via fax: 011 52 55 5277 2376 <b>Lic. Felipe Calderon Hinojosa</b> President of the Republic Mexico	via fax: 011 52 951 511 5519 <b>Lic. Lizbeth Cana Cadeza</b> Attorney General of Oaxaca, Mexico
via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 <b>Lic. Francisco Ramírez Acuna</b> Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Mexico	

December 26, 2006

Dear Sirs and Madam:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are deeply concerned for the safety of **Yesica Sánchez Maya**, a lawyer who works for the Mexican League for the Defense of Human Rights (LIMEDDH), and **Aline Castellanos Jurado**, a leading member the Committee for Parliamentary Dialogue and Equality. They have been documenting and publicizing human rights violations that have taken place in Oaxaca since the beginning of widespread protests in June and are now facing arrest on charges which are baseless. We fear that if these women are arrested they could face the same ill treatment and torture that has happened to other human rights activists taken into custody during the Oaxaca protests.

A warrant for the arrest of one of the women was issued by a judge in Etna, near Oaxaca. The charges relate to the occupation of public broadcaster Corporación Oaxaqueña de Radio y Televisión, also known as Canal 9, by protesters on August 1, who were evicted by the police in November. Yesica Sanchez and Aline Castellanos categorically deny involvement in any offenses. Human rights defenders have played a key role in bringing to public attention human rights violations including the fabrication of criminal charges against protesters. We believe that leveling false charges against these two women may be intended as reprisal for their work.

We previously wrote to you on November 21, 2006 protesting the acts of intimidation against LIMEDDH and urged you to thoroughly investigate them. **We again strongly urge that you**

- ensure that Yesica Sanchez and Aline Castellanos are protected from any form of torture or ill-treatment;
- guarantee their safety and their right to continue their human rights work without any restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms;
- conduct an investigation into the misuse of the judicial system to obstruct the legitimate work of human rights defenders.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

cc: LIMEDDH (Liga Mexicana por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos) ~ via fax: 011 52 95 1514 5298  
 Ambassador Carlos Alberto De Icaza Gonzalez ~ via fax: 202 728 1698  
 Ulises Ruiz Ortiz, Governor of Oaxaca ~ via fax: 011 52 951 511 6879  
 Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández, President of the Nacional Comisión on Human Rights ~ via fax 011 52 55 5681 7199  
 Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5207-0091  
 William Duncan, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202.647.5752  
 Red Oaxaqueña de Derechos Humanos ~ via email  
 Paolo Carozza US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ fax: (202)458-3992  
 US Senators DeWine & Voinovich and US Reps Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

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