

Via fax: 011 52 951 50 20 530 Ruiz Ortiz Ulises Governor of Oaxaca, MEXICO	Via fax: 011 52 951 511 5519 Lic. Patricia Villanueva Abrajan Attorney General of Oaxaca, MEXICO
Via fax: 011 52 951 503 0220 Lic. Jaime Perez Jimenez Human Rights Commission of Oaxaca, MEXICO	Via fax: 011 52 55 5128 0234 Maestro Ricardo Sepulveda Director of Human Rights – Interior Ministry, MEXICO

June 13, 2005

We are deeply concerned for the safety of **Feliciano Julian Gómez Ortiz** and members of his family. On June 2, 2005 he was detained without charge and tortured by four officers from the state judicial police in the municipality of Tlaxiaco, State of Oaxaca. Feliciano Julian Gómez Ortiz's wife, **Esperanza Sánchez López**, was also brought to the police station and interrogated while their son waited outside.

Esperanza Sánchez witnessed the police punch her husband in the mouth and nose when they arrested him. In detention, the police handcuffed and blindfolded him. They placed a nylon bag over his face to induce suffocation. When police finally determined that Feliciano Gómez was not the man who knew the location of the merchandise they were looking for, they released him, but warned: "...if you tell what we did to you we are going to kill you...we are going to put you in the river and we are going to give you electrical shocks."

On June 3 Feliciano Julian Gómez Ortiz submitted a complaint to the Public Prosecutor's office in Tlaxiaco. However, officials sought to delay the ratification of the complaint, thereby undermining the investigation.

Allowing intimidation and torture to go unpunished is reprehensible. In light of the facts presented, we strongly urge you to

- Conduct a prompt, impartial and full investigation into the torture of Feliciano Julian Gómez Ortiz, publish the findings of the investigation and bring those responsible to justice;
- Guarantee that Feliciano Julian Gómez Ortiz and his family will not be intimidated or harassed as a result of his complaints of torture to the Public Prosecutor's office in Tlaxiaco and the State Human Rights Commission
- Arrange for fair and adequate compensation for Feliciano Julian Gómez Ortiz in accordance with the obligations of the State under international standards on human rights

As a consequence of your high position in Mexico, you have the authority and the responsibility to put an end to incidents such as those detailed above. We remind you of your obligation to prohibit torture and ill-treatment under the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to follow the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: Ambassador Carlos Alberto De Icaza Gonzalez ~ via fax: 202 728 1698
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Centro de Derechos Humanos y Asesoría a Pueblos Indígenas, Oaxaca ~ via US mail
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UA153/05 MEXICO

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