

via fax: 011 52 74 7471 9956 <b>Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo</b> Governor of Guerrero State, Mexico	via fax: 011 52 74 7471 2190 <b>Lic. Juan Alarcon Hernández</b> President of Guerrero Human Rights Commission
via fax: 011 52 74 7471 9737 <b>Gral. Juan H. Salinas Altes</b> Public Security Minister of Guerrero State	

March 23, 2007

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of **members of the Permanent Assembly of Carrizalillo Communal Lands** in Guerrero State. These members are staging a protest after renting part of the land to a mining company which has not honored its agreement with the community to invest in facilities such as a health center, roads and a school. Furthermore, the company still has not made any monetary payment to the community for use of the land.

On January 25, 100 state and municipal police forcibly evicted members of the Assembly who had been staging a sit-in protest in front of a local mine and blocking the entrance since January 8. During the operation, several protesters, including women and children, were beaten with sticks, and 70 of them were held for four hours in the municipal prison of Zumpango. On March 6, when negotiations between the Assembly and the company failed, the protesters restarted their sit-in and again began blocking the entrance to the mine.

Because of previous events, we fear that they risk being intimidated, beaten or wrongly arrested in an attempt to halt their protests. Local human rights organizations have reported that the state government has not helped resolve the dispute and is, instead, resorting to force to remove the protestors from the site and to stop them from campaigning for their rights.

In light of these facts, we strongly urge you to:

- ensure that the police do not use the threat of more violence or arrest to evict members of the Permanent Assembly of Carrizalillo Communal Lands protesting at the entrance of the mine;
- facilitate a dialogue between the protesters and the mining company, and lead the negotiations in order to reach a peaceful and lawful resolution to the dispute;
- recognize your obligation to maintain public order while respecting the right to peaceful protest;
- begin an investigation into reports that protesters were beaten with sticks on January 25, 2007 by municipal and state police.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

cc: Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montana "Tlachinollan" ~ via e-mail: [cdhm@tlachinollan.org](mailto:cdhm@tlachinollan.org)  
 Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández, President of the National Human Rights Commission ~ via fax  
 Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 728 1698  
 Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr., US Ambassador to Mexico ~ 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 ~ via fax  
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email  
 US Representatives Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA 64/07 Mexico

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