

via fax: 011 52 55 53 46 09 08 Lic. Octavio Alberto Orellana Wiarco Special Federal Prosecutor on Crimes against Journalists	via fax: 011 52 747 472 2328 Lic. Eduardo Murueta Urrutia Attorney General of Guerrero
via fax: 011 52 747 471 9801 Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo Governor of Guerrero	via fax: 011 52 55 50 93 3414/15/16 Lic. Francisco Javier Ramirez Acuña Minister of the Interior, Mexico

April 26, 2007

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply concerned for the safety of journalist **Misael Habana**, whose co-presenter **Amado Ramirez Dillanes** was murdered on April 6. The two men had presented the news program *Al Tanto* on the Acapulco local radio station Radiorama in Guerrero. As he was getting into his car after leaving the Radiorama offices, Amado Ramirez was shot in the leg and chest. As he tried to escape, he was fatally shot in the back. Amado Ramirez was also a local correspondent for national television network Televisa and had aired an investigation into killings of local police officers, linking the crime to drug traffickers. In March he had received an anonymous telephone death threat during a break in his radio broadcast. On April 7, the security guard at Radiorama received an anonymous telephone call threatening Misael Habana.

The motive of the murder is being investigated by the Guerrero state authorities. Although two men were arrested for questioning on April 10 in connection with the murder, we are concerned that unless state and federal authorities investigate the case thoroughly and ensure the protection of Misael Habana, other journalists may be at similar risk. We are very aware of the high levels of violence against journalists in Mexico during the last six years, including the murder of ten of them in 2006, as well as the abduction of a number of others. In February 2006, federal authorities established the Office of Special Prosecutor on Crimes against Journalists to improve investigation of such cases. However, there is almost total impunity for such crimes because the Special Federal Prosecutor has failed to ensure successful prosecutions in any of the more than 100 cases under investigation.

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

- take effective action to ensure that Misael Habana receives protection measures to guarantee his safety, in accordance with his wishes;
- conduct a full and impartial investigation into the murder of Amado Ramirez and the threats against Misael Habana.
- carry out your duty to ensure that those responsible for attacks on journalists are held accountable so that future attacks are prevented and there is a climate in which journalists can exercise freedom of expression without fear of reprisal.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

COPIES: Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernandez, President of the National Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 011 52 55 56 81 81 25
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US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
US Reps Brown, Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, 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: