

via fax: 011 52 747 471 3801 <b>Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo</b> Governor of the State of Guerrero, Mexico	via fax: : 011 52 55 1103 6189 <b>Ing. Genaro Garcia Luna</b> Public Security Minister of Mexico
via fax: 011 52 55 5533 5321 <b>Lic. Alfred Elias Ayub</b> Director of Federal Commission for Electricity	

May 11, 2007

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply concerned for the safety of members of the **Organization of Community Members Opposing the Parota Dam** (CECOP) in Guerrero state. We are also concerned for the lives of the indigenous community whose land will be flooded when the dam is built.

At a meeting on May 6, members of the indigenous community of Cacahuatepec were scheduled to vote on whether to approve plans to hand over land to the state authorities for the construction of the Parota Dam. Some members of the community were not informed that the vote was to take place. The community did not receive accurate and impartial information from the Guerrero state government and the Federal Electricity Commission on the impact of the dam project or the compensation being offered by the state. We are aware that a previous vote in Cacahuatepec was declared invalid since it had failed to comply with legal requirements, including ensuring adequate notification and participation of those eligible to vote.

On April 21, Rodolfo Chavez Galindo, a leading member of CECOP, was arrested arbitrarily by the police, who used an arrest warrant that had been cancelled in 2004. His rapid release was secured later that day by local human rights organizations, highlighting the fact that the detention may have been politically motivated. We fear that other members of the organization may be arrested and intimidated.

We have sent at least three letters to Guerrero and Mexican officials since 2004 to protest the violence, arbitrary arrests and intimidation surrounding Parota Dam, which is a part of the Plan Puebla Panama infrastructure project. Three people have been killed, several injured, and at least one local activist has received death threats. There has been no progress in official investigations into these incidents.

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

- protect those exercising their rights to public participation and free and informed consent.
- ensure that supporters of CECOP are not the target of the threats or intimidation and that they are allowed to carry out legitimate protests against the construction of the dam;
- investigate the arbitrary detention of Rodolfo Chavez Galindo; and
- ensure that communities affected by the proposed construction of Parota Dam are provided with full accurate and impartial information on the project and the compensation available.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

Copies: Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montana "Tlachinollan" AC, a local human rights organization ~ via U.S. mail  
 Comisión de Defensa de los Derechos Humanos del Estado de Guerrero, Guerrero State Human Rights Commission ~ via U.S. mail  
 Lic. Felipe Calderon Hinojosa, President of Mexico ~ via fax  
 Dr. Jose Luis Soberanes Fernandez, President of the National Human Rights Commission ~ via fax  
 Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax  
 Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr., US Ambassador to Mexico ~ via fax  
 William Duncan, Mexico Desk, US State Department ~ via fax  
 Paolo Carozza US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ fax: (202)458-3992  
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Gillmor, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA103/07 Mexico

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