

via fax: 011 951 511 6879 Sr. Ulises Ruiz Ortiz Governor of Oaxaca, Mexico	via fax: 011 52 951 511 5519 Lic. Patricia Villanueva Abrajan Attorney General of Oaxaca, Mexico
via fax: 011 52 55 5128 0234 Maestro Ricardo Sepulveda Director of Human Rights, Interior Ministry, Mexico	

September 24, 2005

We are deeply concerned for the safety of **Olga Isabel Leon Victoria, Zoila Reyes Santiago** and their families. On August 29, Olga Isabel Leon, a 17 year old girl from the indigenous Mixteca community of San Isidro Vista Hermosa, in the Tlaxiaco District in the State of Oaxaca, was abducted. She was freed two days later after having been raped by her kidnappers. Since then, her relatives and other members of the community have been intimidated and threatened. There is little doubt that her kidnapping and rape is a consequence of the attempt by the authorities of Santa Cruz Nundaco to impose a new Municipal Authority on San Isidro without the consent of the Communal Assembly of San Isidro. Thus far, no precautionary measures have been taken to protect the safety of Olga Isabel and her family.

Similarly, Zoila Reyes Santiago, a well-known leader of the San Isidro group opposed to the Santa Cruz Nundaco authorities, and her family have received threats via telephone and letter.

Numerous other instances of intimidation have also been reported. In July, members of the San Isidro community were held captive, beaten and threatened by supporters of the municipal authorities of Santa Cruz Nundaco. Despite the fact that criminal complaints were filed, the local authorities, including the municipal president, failed to take action against those responsible for the violence.

In light of the facts presented, **we strongly urge you to**

- Take immediate measures to protect Olga Isabel Leon Victoria and her family, Zoila Reyes Santiago and her family, and other members of the San Isidro Vista Hermosa community;
- Call for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the abduction and rape of Olga Isabel Leon Victoria, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- Call for all threats and attacks against members of the community of San Isidro Vista Hermosa to be fully investigated and hold accountable any members of the municipal authorities who are implicated in these illegal acts;
- Address the underlying causes of the conflict between Santa Cruz Nundaco and San Isidro Vista Hermosa in order to avoid further violence.

Please take immediate action to stem further violence.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: Ambassador Carlos Alberto De Icaza Gonzalez, Embassy of Mexico ~ via fax: 1 202 728 1698
 Antonio O. Garza, Jr., U.S. Ambassador to Mexico ~ fax: 011 52 55 5511 9980
 William Duncan, Desk Officer for Mexico ~ fax: 202.647.9894
 Centro de Derechos Humanos Nu'u Ji Kandii ~ via US mail
 U.S. Senators DeWine & Voinovich ~ via email
 U.S. Representatives Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA 229/05 Mexico

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