

via fax: 011 52 747 47 2 3125 Lic. Rene Juarez Cisneros Governor of Guerrero, Mexico	via fax: 011 52 55 51 28 0234 / 0224 Maestro Ricardo Sepulveda Iguinez Interior Ministry Head of Unit for Human Rights
via fax: 011 52 747 47 22328 Lic. Jesus Ramirez Guerrero Attorney General of Guerrero, Mexico	

December 23, 2004

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are extremely concerned for the lives of **Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz and his family**. He is a leading member of the Council of Ejidos of Communities opposed to the La Parota Hydro-electric Dam (CECOP), in the municipality of Acapulco, Guerrero State. On December 2, Suástegui received an insulting and threatening phone call from a man who said he knew where Suástegui and his sisters reside and the route they travel to work. On December 9, as he was boarding a bus after he had been to court in connection with his activities in opposition to the dam construction, he noticed that he was being followed by an unmarked car with three armed men inside. When he got off the bus, the driver of the car tried to run him over. When he got home, he saw the car again, parked outside.

We wrote to Mexican government officials August 14, 2004, calling for an end to the harassment of Suástegui and others opposed to La Parota Dam. The hydroelectric dam is part of the mega-infrastructure project called Plan Puebla Panamá (PPP).

Marco Antonio Suástegui Muñoz was arrested in July 2004 after a meeting in Aguacaliente, one of the communities affected by the dam construction. He and another member of CECOP are accused of "illegally confining" one of the five officials who came to the meeting from the national power company (CFE), which is in charge of the dam construction. Both men deny the charges; they are free on bail pending the outcome of a judicial investigation. It seems that the charges may be politically motivated, intended to deter protests against the construction of the dam. CECOP fears that the project will flood more than 14,000 hectares, threatening the livelihood of 20 farming communities. The CFE consulted with local community representatives about the dam construction, but CECOP claims that the consultation process was unfair because it deliberately excluded people opposed to the dam and misled others.

We strongly urge that

- you take all necessary measures to protect **Marco Antonio Suastegui Munoz and his family** and insure that he is able to carry out his legitimate activities without harassment;
- Conduct a prompt, full and impartial investigation of the threats described above and make the results public.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: Lic Alfredo Elias Ayub, Director General of CFE ~ via fax: 011 52 55 5310 4614
Ambassador Carlos Alberto De Icaza Gonzalez, Embassy of Mexico ~ fax: 1 202 728 1698
Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr, US Ambassador to Mexico ~ fax: 011-52-55-5511-9980
William Duncan, Desk Officer for Mexico, US State Department ~ fax: 202.647.9894
Lic. Juan Alarcón Hernández, Human Rights Commission, Guerrero ~ 011 52 747 47 121 90/102 51
Centro de Derechos Humanos "Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" ~ fax: 011 52 55 5546 82
Lic. Vicente Fox Quezada, President of Mexico ~ via fax: 011 52 555 520 7125
Lic. Santiago Creel Miranda, Secretary of Government, Mexico ~ via fax: 011 52 555 128 0234/093 3414
Senator George Voinovich, US Senate ~ via email: Daniel_knezevic@voinovich.senate.gov
U.S. Representatives: Kucinich, Kaptur, LaTourette, Ryan, Tubbs Jones

UA 337/04 Mexico

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