

via fax: 011 52 5 55 277 2376 <b>Lic. Vicente Fox Quesada</b> , President of Mexico	Via fax: 011 52 5 55241 8393 <b>Lic. Eduardo Medina Mora</b> , Minister of Public Security, Mexico
via fax: 011 52 5 55 093 3414 <b>Lic. Carlos Abascal Carranza</b> , Minister of the Interior, Mexico	via fax: 011 52 9 51 511 6879 <b>Sr. Ulises Ruiz Ortiz</b> , Governor of Oaxaca State, Mexico
via fax: 011 52 5 55 346 0908 <b>Lic. Daniel Cabeza de Vaca</b> , Attorney General of Mexico	via fax: 011 52 5 55 681 7199 <b>Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernandez</b> President of National Human Rights Commission

November 21, 2006

We are very concerned about the safety of human rights defenders working at the Oaxaca office of the **Mexican League for the Defense of Human Rights (LIMEDDH)**. LIMEDDH and other human rights defenders have been documenting the violence and denouncing the resulting human rights violations occurring in the escalating protests in Oaxaca. They have noticed being under surveillance by unidentified individuals since October 27. When they arrived at work on October 31 they found graffiti which said, "This is where APPO meet" and "barricades are against human rights." We believe that LIMEDDH members are a target of retaliatory actions by APPO opponents who will attempt to stop their work.

The Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (APPO), an umbrella organization which has led protests against Oaxaca governor Ulises Ruiz, has repeatedly been attacked by officials linked to the state government. These attacks have resulted in several deaths. **Bradley Roland Will**, a US journalist, was killed October 27; three more protesters were killed that day. When the federal government ordered in 4,000 Federal Preventive Police agents on October 29, violence ensued and protesters **Jorge Alberto López Bernal** and **Fidel Sánchez García** were killed. The police arrested members of the National Union of Education Workers (SNTE) and APPO supporters. More than 50 people are still in detention.

We wrote to the Governor of Oaxaca and other officials on September 13 calling for the release of German Mendoza Nube and Ramiro Aragon Pérez who had been detained since August 10. We are grateful for their release on October 30. In another letter to officials on October 26 we urged for investigations into another detention and two deaths (**Alejandro García Hernández** and **Panfilo Hernández**). We are awaiting news in those cases.

### We strongly urge that you

- carry out a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into the acts of intimidation against LIMEDDH, make the results public, and bring those responsible to justice;
- bring to justice those responsible for the October 27 killing of Bradley Will and three others
- investigate all allegations of excessive use of force, including the death of Jorge Alberto Lopez Bernal and Fidel Sanchez Garcia on October 29,
- make public the identity and whereabouts of those detained in Oaxaca on October 29-30, guarantee their physical safety and access to families, legal advice and medical attention;
- either charge the detainees with a recognizably criminal offense or release them immediately;
- conduct a full and impartial investigation into the involvement of state officials in the promotion or toleration of violence and human rights violations during the protests in Oaxaca;

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

copies: Red Oaxaqueña de Derechos Humanos, human rights group ~ via US mail  
 LIMEDDH ~ via fax 011 52 95 1514 5298  
 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  
 Paolo Carozza US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ fax: (202)458-3992  
 U.S. Senators DeWine and Voinovich ~ via email  
 U.S. Representatives Brown, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Ryan, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA 292/06 and 227/06 update Mexico

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