

via fax: 011 52 747 471 9801; 011 52 747 471 4788; 011 52 747 471 9956 Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo Governor of the State of Guerrero, Mexico	via fax: 011 52 747 471 21 90 Lic. Juan Alarcon Hernandez President of Human Rights Commission of Guerrero
via fax: 011 52 747 472 2328 Lic. Eduardo Murueta Urrutia Attorney General of the State of Guerrero, Mexico	

September 1, 2007

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of **Fortunato Prisciliano**, a member of the Tlapaneca (Me'Phaa) indigenous group and for his wife, **Ines Fernandez Ortega**,

On June 30, Fortunato Prisciliano, who is also a civilian volunteer with the local police, was beaten by two men whom he knew in front of the Municipal Police Station (Comisaria Municipal), a place where he often meets with other civilian police volunteers. As he lay on the ground, one of the men threatened him and showed him a gun he had concealed under his clothes. The threats relate to the March 2002 rape of Ines Fernandez Ortega by three soldiers who entered their home. Ines Fernandez and Fortunato Prisciliano reported the rape to the local authorities. An investigation was initially opened in the local Public Prosecutor's Office (Ministerio Publico) in Ayutla de los Libres, Guerrero State, but then military authorities claimed jurisdiction; in 2003 the military prosecutor recommended closing the investigation. The same year, soldiers from the Mexican army intimidated the couple and harassed other residents of Ayutla. In October 2006, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, based in Washington DC, USA, said it would investigate the case.

Fortunato Prisciliano reported the June 2007 attack to the municipal police chief who ordered the attacker to come to the Comisaria Municipal. The attacker apologized for the incident and explained that he was drunk. However, the harassment and threats against Fortunato Prisciliano have continued. On July 27 and again on August 1, the uncle of the man who had previously beaten and threatened him made threats: "stop any action against guachos (soldiers) or something really bad is going to happen to you; what [my nephew] did to you was not enough..."

On August 8 Fortunato Prisciliano filed a complaint before the Public Prosecutor in Ayutla against the three men who have beaten and harassed him. To date no protection measures for Fortunato Prisciliano and his wife have been ordered by the Mexican authorities. We therefore **strongly urge that you**

- ensure that Fortunato Prisciliano and his wife Ines Fernandez receive protection measures to guarantee their safety in accordance with their wishes;
- call for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the threats and attack on Fortunato Prisciliano.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan-Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montana "Tlachinollan" AC via US mail
 Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana ~ via fax: 202 728 1698
 Ambassador Antonio O. Garza, Jr ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5207-0091
 William Duncan, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202.647.5752
 Paolo Carozza US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights~ fax: (202)458-3992
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email and US Reps. 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: