

via fax: 011 52 961 61 657 24 <b>Lic. Mariano Herran Salvatti</b> Attorney General of Chiapas, Mexico	via fax: 011 525 55 346 0908 <b>Lic. Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza</b> Federal Attorney General of Mexico
via fax: 011 52 961 618 8050 ext 21122 <b>Lic. Juan Jose Sabines Guerrero</b> Governor of Chiapas, Mexico	

October 2, 2007

Dear Sirs:

We still have grave concerns about the **39 Tzeltal indigenous women, men and children** evicted from the Montes Azules nature reserve on August 18 about whom we have sent you two recent letters (September 13 and September 16, 2007). Although all of them have been released and all charges dropped, the evicted families have not received legal title to any land. A local human rights organization has provided the evictees with food, shelter and basic provisions. The authorities have not offered the 39 evictees any alternative place to live or even consulted them about their eviction and relocation, nor have they given the families any reparation for the destruction of their homes and belongings when they were evicted.

We are also extremely concerned that the Chiapas state authorities have not retracted their threat to forcibly evict five other communities settled in the Montes Azules nature reserve, and we are not aware that any of these communities have been consulted about their relocation.

We again remind you that under international law, evictions carried out without consultations, due process of law and assurances of adequate alternative accommodation, are grave violations of human rights. Mexico, as a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, must respect the right to adequate housing. This includes ensuring that everyone is afforded a degree of security of tenure sufficient to protect them from forced eviction and ensuring that no one is made homeless as the result of an eviction.

**Based on the facts presented above, we strongly urge that you**

- ensure, in consultation with those affected, that all evictees have adequate alternative accommodation;
- that the 39 Tzeltal indigenous women, men and children evicted from the Montes Azules nature reserve on August 18 will receive full reparation for the psychological harm they have suffered and the destruction of their homes and belongings when they were forcibly evicted;
- suspend all evictions until the authorities are assured that such evictions will conform to international human rights law.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

Copies: Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolome de las Casas A.C. ~ via US mail  
 Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Embassy of Mexico ~ via fax: 1 202 728 1698  
 Antonio O. Garza, Jr., U.S. Ambassador to Mexico ~ fax: 011 52 55 5511 9980  
 Paolo Carozza, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Fax: (202)458- 3992 or 202.458.6215  
 William Duncan, Desk Officer for Mexico ~ fax: 202.647.9894  
 U.S. Senators Brown and Voinovich and U.S. Representatives 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:**