

via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 <b>Lic. Juan Camilio Mourino Terrazo</b> Minister of the Interior of Mexico	via fax: 011 52 951 511 5519 <b>Lic Evencio Nicolas Martinez Ramiriz</b> State Attorney General of Oaxaca, Mexico
via fax: 011 52 951 502 0530 <b>Lic. Ulises Ruiz Ortiz</b> Governor of the State of Oaxaca, Mexico	via fax: 011 52 951 503 0220 <b>Dr. Heriberto Antonio Garcia</b> President of Oaxaca State Human Rights Commission

August 13, 2008

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, continue to have grave concerns for the life of **Jorge Aragon Martinez**, about which we wrote to you on July 13. We are also, now, very concerned about **Melesio Melchor Angeles**, another political activist and radio host on the community radio station Zaachila Radio based in the Oaxaca town of Zaachila.

On the night of July 27, gunmen fired three shots at Melesio Melchor Angeles' house and six shots at the front door of the home of Jorge Aragon Martinez's mother-in-law, where he had lived until a few weeks ago.

Zaachila Radio had reported on the June 20 demonstration against the visit of the state governor. They reported that local officials and their supporters had attacked the demonstrators to disperse them. They also announced the identities of some of the officials they said were involved, including those who were filmed shooting at the crowd.

As of late July, authorities still had not carried out any investigation into the June 21 threats against Jorge Aragon Martinez and his family, but they have opened a criminal investigation into local political activists who organized the June 20 protest, including Jorge Aragon Martinez and Melesio Melchor Angeles. This investigation may be intended to silence the authorities' critics, who are likely to face spurious criminal charges.

Because of these incidents, we **strongly urge** you to

- provide adequate protection for Melesio Melchor Angeles and Jorge Aragon Martinez and their families, in accordance with their wishes;
- carry out a swift and impartial investigation into the July shooting at their houses, and bring those responsible to justice;
- ensure that all criminal investigations into those responsible for organizing the June 20 demonstration adhere strictly to international human rights standards.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Coordinator

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US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email  
US Representatives, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Regula, Ryan, Sutton, Tubbs Jones ~ via email

UA 182/08 update

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