

via fax: 011 52 55 5346 0908 Lic. Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza Attorney General of the Republic of Mexico	via fax: 011 52 747 471 9956 Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo Governor of the State of Guerrero, Mexico
via fax: 011 52 747 472 2328 Lic. Eduardo Murueta Urrutia Attorney General of the State of Guerrero, Mexico	

January 11, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We continue to be extremely concerned for the safety of **Javier Torres Cruz and his relatives** in the community of La Morena, Petatlan municipality, Guerrero State. Javier Torres Cruz, a member of the grassroots organization Environmental Organization of the Coyuca and Petatlan Mountains, was released on December 13 after being abducted on December 3. He had a number of bruises, particularly on his hands, and complained of strong abdominal pains. He had been blindfolded and did not know where he had been held.

At 5 am on November 13, a group of 100 soldiers went to La Morena to find Javier Torres Cruz and two of his brothers. The three brothers were not there at the time, but soldiers searched four houses. They also threatened, slapped and pointed their guns at women and children. That same evening, a group of 30 armed men in plain clothes came to the community to find Javier Torres Cruz and his brothers.

In September 2007, Javier Torres Cruz and his uncle had testified against a local political boss following his alleged involvement in the death of human rights defender Digna Ochoa y Placido in Mexico City in 2001.

We believe that Javier Torres Cruz and his relatives are still in danger. Therefore we **strongly urge** you to:

- provide Javier Torres Cruz and members of his family with adequate protection, in accordance with their wishes;
- conduct an independent and impartial investigation into the abduction and torture of Javier Torres Cruz, and bring those responsible to justice.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad ~ via US mail
 Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 728 1698
 Antonio O. Garza, Jr., US Ambassador to Mexico ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5207-0091
 Mary Stickles, 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
 US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, Latta, LaTourette, Ryan, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

UA336/08-Mexico

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