

via fax: 011 52 747 471 9956 <b>Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo</b> Governor of the State of Guerrero, Mexico	via fax: 011 52 747 471 2190 <b>Lic. Juan Alarcon Hernandez</b> President of the Human Rights Commission of Guerrero
via fax: 011 52 747 472 2328 <b>Lic. Eduardo Murueta Urrutia</b> Attorney General of State of Guerrero	

January 24, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the lives of **Maria de los Angeles Hernandez, Maximo Mojica**, members of a teachers union, and **Santiago Nazario Lezma**, who live in Teloloapan municipality, Guerrero state. They have been arbitrarily arrested, and we believe they have been beaten in custody.

On November 27: Three armed men forced Maximo Mojico from his vehicle and took him away.

On November 29: Maximo Mojico called his wife, Maria de los Angeles Hernandez, and said he was being held kidnapped for a ransom of 50,000 pesos (US\$2,500). That same day, armed men in uniforms, believed to be officers of the State Judicial Police, took Hernandez and Santiago Nazario Lezma, a family friend, from the Hernandez home.

On December 3: Staff of the Guerrero State Human Rights Commission traced the three missing persons to the State Attorney General's Office in Acapulco. The Human Rights Commission reported that all three had visible bruises all over their bodies.

Since December 3: They had not been officially charged with a crime. They were not permitted to see lawyers or relatives. They could be at risk of further torture or other ill-treatment.

On December 29: Armed men began occupying the home of Maximo Mojica's brother, **Pastor Mojica**, forcing Pastor Mojica and his family into hiding. Maximo Mojica and Pastor Mojica are members of the grassroots housing rights organization "Tierra y Libertad." Maximo Mojica, Pastor Mojica and Maria de los Angeles Hernandez are also members of a teachers' union that has been organizing demonstrations over the past few months.

In light of these facts, we **strongly urge that you**

- provide proper medical attention and carry out an independent medical examination to assess all injuries to Maria de los Angeles Hernandez, Maximo Mojica and Santiago Nazario Lezma
- guarantee that the three will not be tortured or ill-treated, and that they will be promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offense or released;
- conduct a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the detention of the three and bring those responsible to justice;
- ensure that all testimonies extracted under torture and other ill-treatment will be ruled inadmissible as evidence;
- give the three persons immediate and regular access to their families and lawyers of their choice;
- guarantee that all those under investigation will be treated humanely and given the right to due process and a fair trial.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

UA330/08MEXICO

cc: Human Rights Organization 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 and US Representatives Bocchieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta,, Ryan, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

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