

via fax 011 52 747 471 9956 <b>Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo</b> Governor of Guerrero	via fax 011 52 55 5346 0908 <b>Lic. Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza</b> Attorney General of the Republic of Mexico
via fax 011 52 747 472 2328 <b>Lic. Eduardo Murueta Urrutia</b> Attorney General of Guerrero]	Via fax 011 52 55 5557 5571 <b>General Guillermo Galvan Galvan</b> Minister of Defense of the Republic of Mexico

March 4, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to express our great dismay and sadness at the deaths of **Manuel Ponce Rosas** and **Raul Lucas Lucía**, whose bodies were discovered buried in plastic bags in Las Cazuelas, Tecoaapa municipality, Guerrero State, late at night on February 20. Their bodies both showed extensive signs of torture. Both men, who were members of the Organization for the Future of Mixtec Indigenous Peoples (OFPM), were found a thirty-minute drive away from Ayutla de los Libres municipality, where they were abducted by armed men on February 13.

Because of a series of threats since the two men's abduction, we believe that their families, members of OFPM and other human rights activists supporting the families may be at risk of reprisals. On February 13, Guadalupe Castro Morales, Raul Lucas' wife, received a phone call saying, "Don't make trouble, stay quiet." On February 18, Raul Lucas' sister received a phone call telling her to tell Guadalupe Castro to stop making such a fuss or they would kidnap her daughter. They believe, as do we, that the two men may have been abducted by police and murdered as a consequence of their work as human rights defenders. These are further examples of threats, intimidation and murders of members of indigenous rights organizations in Guerrero that have become commonplace because of their work as human rights defenders.

You have the power and the consequent responsibility to see that human rights workers within your jurisdiction are protected. **We therefore urge that you**

- take steps to ensure the safety of: witnesses to the February 13 abduction; Guadalupe Castro Morales; other relatives of Manuel Ponce Rosas and Raul Lucas Lucía; other members of OFPM; members of other human rights organizations supporting the families;
- initiate an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the killing of Manuel Ponce Rosas and Raul Lucas Lucía, ensuring that all the evidence is collected and properly preserved in accordance with international standards;
- ensure that the State Human Rights Commission (CEDH) monitors the investigation
- conduct a full and thorough inquiry as to why police and prosecutors refused to initiate an immediate investigation into the men's abduction and apparent enforced disappearance, despite the complaint filed by witnesses.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Coordinator

CC: Human Rights Organization Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña "Tlachinollan" AC~ via US-mail  
Lic. Juan Alarcon Hernandez, Human Rights Commission of Guerrero ~via US-mail  
Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 728 1698  
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US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

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