

Via fax: 011 52 961 618 8050 Lic. Juan José Sabines Guerrero Governor of the State of Chiapas, Mexico	Via Fax: 011 52 961 61 657 24 Lic. Amador Rodríguez Lozano Minister of Justice of the State of Chiapas, Mexico
via Fax: 001 52 961 639 6615 Lic. Juan Carlos Moreno Guillén President of Human Rights Commission of Chiapas, Mexico	

May 11, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned for the safety of Nicaraguan national **Yasser Vilchez Grant Domingo**, a migrant worker who was traveling through Mexico, attempting to reach the USA.

On February 20, Mexican migration authorities mounted an operation in Arriaga, Chiapas, to detain people from Central America traveling through the region. Yasser Vilchez escaped when an officer chased him, but he stumbled on a nail, and two toes became infected while he hid for the next two days. After walking for three days, he arrived on February 26 at the General Hospital in Tapachula, where doctors refused to treat him because he was a migrant. The infection spread to his foot and leg.

On February 29 he was admitted to a local shelter for migrants where the staff was able to get him admitted to Tapachula General Hospital. When he got there, a doctor said to him, "So you've come back." The doctor told him that the infection had spread and that his entire leg needed to be amputated. The amputation was performed March 12.

On April 2, while he was recuperating at the migrants' shelter, a man came and told him, "Look, even doctors make mistakes," and offered him a very large sum of money not to file a complaint. Yasser Vilchez Grant refused and the man threatened that his decision would carry serious consequences. On April 13 Yasser Vilchez filed a complaint of negligence against several doctors with the Chiapas State Public Prosecutor's Office. He has gone into hiding until his complaint is investigated. We fear that he may be deported to Nicaragua before his case is fully investigated.

We strongly urge you to:

- guarantee the safety of Yasser Vilchez Grant Domingo and provide him with a temporary visa available to migrants who have filed complaints and seek protection so that he can testify against those responsible without fear of reprisals or repatriation;
- order a full and prompt investigation into the April 2 attempt to intimidate him into abandoning a legal complaint;
- ensure that he has access to legal advice, consular officials and any medical attention he may require;
- order a full, prompt and impartial investigation into his complaints of discrimination and medical negligence, and ensure that those found responsible are sanctioned accordingly;
- ensure that all irregular migrants who are victims of crime are able to report the offenses and assist in the investigation without fear of reprisal or deportation.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

CC: 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, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

UA 102/09-MEXICO

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