

via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 Lic. Fernando Francisco Gomez-Mont Urueta Minister of Interior, Mexico	via fax: 011 52 951 502 0530 Lic. Ulises Ruiz Ortiz Governor of the State of Oaxaca, Mexico
via fax: 011 52 55 5346 0908 Lic. Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza Attorney General of the Republic, Mexico	

August 26, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are gravely concerned about continuing threats directed at **Marcelino Coache Verano**. On August 17, Coache's wife Reyna Rivera received a text message referring to her husband, saying "you won't protect him all his life and you'll all pay for it greetings from lynx". On the same day, **Yésica Sánchez Maya**, a human rights lawyer, and **Flavio Sosa**, another activist, received text messages from the same telephone number, containing threats to Coache. On August 18, Marcelino Coache received a text message saying: "faggot we are watching you greetings from lynx."

Marcelino Coache, a trade unionist and a leading member of the Oaxacan opposition political movement, the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (APPO), has been attacked and threatened on many occasions. In March, he was abducted by three men and was tortured for several hours. Although he was blindfolded, he heard his abductors referring to their leader as "Lynx" (Lince). Later that month, Marcelino Coache's 15-year-old son Edgar was threatened and followed by a group of men (cf our letter of Apr. 3, 2009). In May Marcelino Coache's wife and other Oaxacan human rights defenders received threatening text messages (cf our letter of May 13, 2009).

Marcelino Coache has been the victim of several other threats and physical attacks:

- August 2007: struck with a gun and his face held to the ground by a policeman who told him to stop being a rebel;
- January 2008: a man attempted to stab him in the abdomen as he was getting out of his car;
- August 2008: his son received a phone call saying "we're going to smash your father's head in."
- March 2009: blindfolded and tortured

On May 8, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights asked the Mexican government to provide protection for Marcelino Coache. However, the steps taken by the authorities have been inadequate, and the investigation has yielded no results.

Again we **strongly urge** that you

- ensure that Marcelino Coache and his family are provided with all necessary protection, as set out in the ruling of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;
- initiate a thorough investigation into attacks and threats against Marcelino Coache including his abduction and torture described above, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Centro de Derechos Humanos "Bartolome Carrasco Briseno" ~ US mail
 Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 728 1698
 Political Affairs Section, US Embassy to Mexico ~ via fax
 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, Space ~ via email
 UA68/09Update_Mexico

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