

via fax: 011 52 747 471 9956 Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo Governor of the State of Guerrero, Mexico	via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 Lic. Fernando F. Gomez-Mont Urueta Minister of Interior of Mexico
via fax: 011 52 747 494 2003 Lic. Juan Alarcon Hernandez Human Rights Commission of Guerrero, Mexico	

September 23, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are deeply distressed over the recent shooting of **Eligio Rebolledo Salinas**, a community leader in Cocula municipality, Guerrero State and the subsequent arrest of three of his male relatives without warrant. On August 23, while near his home, Eligio Rebolledo Salinas was shot four times by unidentified gunmen. He and his male relatives have been campaigning for a mining company to pay a fair price to community members owning lands that the company used to exploit a goldmine.

The mining company, whose operations affect three local communal farm lands (ejidos), halted exploration work in the area at the end of 2007 because of a conflict with the local people. After two years of tensions, in which former mine employees were laid off, and a few days before the attack on Eligio Rebolledo Salinas, two ex-employees of the mining company threatened community members saying "whatever it takes, the company will start its operations at the beginning of September or October."

On September 3, Eligio Rebolledo Salinas' relatives - **Miguel Rebolledo, Victor Rebolledo Salinas and Modesto Rebolledo Salinas** - were arrested at their homes in Cocula municipality by scores of state judicial police who broke into their homes without presenting a warrant, forced them into unmarked vehicles and took them to the state judicial police station in the town of Iguala, Guerrero. They were held there incommunicado for several days before they were all charged with the murder of a man from the same area. Their families have stated that they were not given access to a lawyer of their choice and were made to sign a statement without knowing what it said. The men deny the charges against them

Because of our concern for their safety and their legal rights, **we urgently call upon you to:**

- guarantee the safety of Eligio Rebolledo Salinas with appropriate protection measures in accordance with his wishes;
- conduct a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the armed attack on Eligio Rebolledo Salinas and bring all those responsible to justice;
- ensure that Miguel Rebolledo, Victor Rebolledo Salinas and Modesto Rebolledo Salinas, are allowed access to a lawyer of their choice, communication with their relatives and are guaranteed a fair trial.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre ~ via email
 Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 728 1698
 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 Bocchieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Sutton, Wilson, Space ~ via email

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