

via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 Lic. Fernando Francisco Gomez-Mont Minister of the Interior of Mexico	via fax: 011 52 961 618 8050, ext.: 21122 Lic. Juan Jose Sabines Guerrero Governor of the State of Chiapas, Mexico
via fax: 011 52 961 6165724 Mtro. Raciél Lopez Salazar Attorney General of the State of Chiapas, Mexico	

March 6, 2010

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force, are concerned about the safety of **Adolfo Guzman Ordaz**, an indigenous rights activist who works for Communication and Training Link, and his wife **Margarita Martínez**. On February 25, 2010, Margarita Martínez, was abducted, beaten and threatened. She was on the way to collect her son from school in the Chiapas town of San Cristobal de las Casas when she was abducted by a group of at least two men. They placed a plastic bag over her head, forced her into a car, hit her in the face with a blunt instrument, and poked her in the ribs with what felt like a gun. Her abductors told her, "You won't be able to work any more." They also threatened her with death and told her to drop the complaint that she and her husband had filed in November after state judicial police officers raided their home in Comitán without showing a warrant. Before letting her go they told her, "This is a little present from the Mayor of Comitán."

Margarita Martínez and Adolfo Guzman's home was raided by state police on November 8. About 20 state judicial police officers (Policia Ministerial) came in without showing a warrant, intimidated Adolfo Guzman and pointed a gun at Margarita Martinez. The police said they were looking for "someone," without saying who this was.

This is our second letter to Mexican officials in a month. We wrote to you February 11 urging protection for Adolfo Guzman and his family because of the threats made in December and January after the state police raid on November 8.

Because of the recent attack on Margarita Martínez, we **strongly urge** you to

- provide immediate and effective protection for Adolfo Guzman and his family, in accordance with their wishes;
- conduct a prompt and impartial investigation into the abduction, beating and threats received by Margarita Martinez, , make the results public and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolome de las Casas, AC ~ via email
 Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202-728-1698
 Ambassador Carlos Pascual ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5080-2834
 Mary Stickle, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202-647-5752
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: 202-458-3650
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
 US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

UA16/10/Mexico

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