

Via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 Lic. Fernando Francisco Gómez Mont Minister of the Interior of Mexico	Via fax: 011 52 55 5346 0908 Arturo Chávez Chávez Governor of Oaxaca State, Mexico
Via fax: 011 52 74 7494 2981 Lic. Eduardo Murueta Urrutia Attorney General of Guerrero, Mexico	

June 24, 2010

Dear Sirs:

We are concerned for the safety of indigenous rights defender Raul Hernández who has received threats from fellow inmates in Ayutla prison, Guerrero.

On June 7, imprisoned Raul Hernández witnessed an argument between two inmates with whom he shares a cell in Ayutla prison. The argument led to one of the inmates being beaten, which the injured inmate reported to the head of security of the prison. Raúl Hernández was later called upon by the head of security to act as a witness for the incident.

As a consequence of giving testimony on this incident, Raul Hernández has received several threats from inmates. One inmate told Raul Hernandez "why are you being a snitch, you feel so big because you're getting help from the human rights people, now you'll see the consequence."

On June 14, Raul Hernández told the head of security about the threats he had received and asked for help to guarantee his security in the prison, but no action has been taken.

We have previously written to officials in Mexico about Raul Hernández, of the Me'phaa Indigenous People's Organization (OPIM), because he is a prisoner of conscience. On April 17, 2008, he was detained and charged with the murder of Alejandro Feliciano García, which occurred on January 1, 2008 in the village of El Camalote. Amnesty International and other human rights organizations consider the charges politically motivated. We were glad to learn that the other four men who were also unjustly detained with Raul Hernández were released in March 2009. A federal judge has not released Hernández on the grounds that two alleged witnesses had testified to his presence when the victim was shot. However, eyewitness testimonies that Hernández was not present at the time of the murder have not been taken into consideration. Raul Hernández has appealed against the decision to deny an injunction in his case. He has not yet been tried.

We strongly urge that you provide effective protection for Raul Hernandez, in consultation with him and according to his wishes.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 728 1698
 Carlos Pascual, US Ambassador to Mexico ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5080-2834
 Mary Stickles, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202.647.5752
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: (202)458-3992
 José de Jesús Orozco Henríquez, Mexico's member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: (202)458-3992
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

UA 314/08 update_Mexico

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