

Via fax: 011 52 55 5346 0908 <b>Arturo Chávez Chávez</b> Attorney General of the Republic of Mexico	Via fax: 011 52 951 502 0530 <b>Lic. Ulises Ruiz Ortiz</b> Governor of Oaxaca State, Mexico
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October 1, 2010

Dear Sir:

We continue to be deeply concerned for the safety of Juan Manuel Martínez and members of his family. Martínez, a political activist from Oaxaca state, was detained in 2008 for the murder of US journalist Brad Will. In February 2010, a federal court ruled that the charges against him were baseless and he was released (cf our letter of Apr 2, 2010). Since his release, he and members of his family have been threatened and intimidated on numerous occasions. They have been forced to move three times because of the harassment they have experienced.

On September 24, when Juan Manuel Martínez and his wife returned to their home in the Municipality of Santa Cruz Xoxocotlan, Oaxaca, they found that someone had broken in and ransacked it. Official documents related to complaints filed with the local public prosecutor's office against previous acts of harassment and intimidation had been rifled through. Juan Manuel Martínez's wife has received threatening phone calls, one of which threatened her with a "serious beating." The family has also noticed that armed men have been watching their home and the school that their children attend.

A criminal complaint has been filed with the Federal Attorney General's Office for the repeated acts of harassment against Juan Manuel Martínez and his family.

Based on the facts presented above, we urge you to

- provide effective protection for Juan Manuel Martínez and his relatives, in consultation with them and in accordance with their wishes;
- order a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the threats and attacks that Juan Manuel Martínez and his family have suffered;
- conduct a full and impartial investigation into the killing of Brad Will.

It is the responsibility of state and federal authorities in Mexico to hold accountable those responsible for abuses such as those described here. You have the power and the consequent responsibility to see that human rights of all people within your jurisdiction are protected. We strongly urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

cc: Human Rights Organization Comite 25 de Noviembre ~ via email  
 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 member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: (202)458-3992  
 U.S. Senators Brown and Voinovich ~ via email  
 U.S. Representatives Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

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