

via fax: 011 52 55 5346 0908 Lic Arturo Chávez Chávez Attorney General of the Republic of Mexico	via fax: 011 52 747 471 9956 Lic. Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo Governor of Guerrero, Mexico
via fax: 011 52 747 49 4 29 99 Lic. David Augusto Sotelo Rosas Attorney General Office of Guerrero, Mexico	

October 14, 2010

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about the disappearance of **Víctor Ayala Tapia** in the village of Papanoa, Tecpan de Galeana municipality, Guerrero. He has not been seen since the morning of September 13 when six armed men arrived at his house, demanded to see his identification and then forced him into their pick up truck and drove away. At the time of his abduction, villagers noticed the presence of two state police vans stationed one street away from his home. Police vans come into the Papanoa village only rarely, and they left the village immediately after the abduction. Because his whereabouts remain unknown, we fear that he has been subjected to enforced disappearance.

Víctor Ayala Tapia is the president of the peasant farmer (campesino) organization Frente Libre Hermenegildo Galeana, which campaigns for improved access to resources. In recent months these demands have led to increasing tensions with municipal authorities.

We believe that Víctor Ayala Tapia's disappearance may be on account of his work as a community leader promoting projects in the Papanoa community. A local human rights organization is filing habeas corpus (amparo) with federal courts, and a criminal complaint for his abduction has been filed with the State Attorney General's Office.

We **strongly urge** that you

- take immediate steps to establish the whereabouts of Víctor Ayala Tapia and order an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into his abduction;
- order his immediate release if he is in custody or ensure that he is immediately brought before a judge to face recognized criminal charges;
- take steps to ensure the safety of Víctor Ayala Tapia's family and other members of the Frente Libre Hermenegildo Galeana, in accordance with their wishes.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

CC: Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 1 202 833 4320
Carlos Pascual, US Ambassador to Mexico ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5080-2834
Mary Stickle, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202.647.5752
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José de Jesús Orozco Henríquez, Mexico member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: (202)458-3650
US Senators Brown & Voinovich ~ via email
US Representatives Bocchieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

UA/204/10_Mexico

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