

via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 Lic. José Francisco Blake Mora Minister of the Interior of Republic of Mexico	via fax: 011 52 951 501 6900 ext. 20635 Lic. Maria de la Luz Candelaria Chinas Attorney General of State of Oaxaca, Mexico
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October 25, 2010

Dear Sir and Madam:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force on Central America, are extremely concerned for the safety of the three survivors of the attack on five members of the Independent Movement for Triqui Unity and Struggle (MULTI) on the afternoon of October 16 near the village of Tres Cruces in the Triqui region of Oaxaca. **Teresa Ramírez Sánchez** and **Serafin Ubaldo Zurita**, were killed when armed men, believed to have links with local authorities, ambushed and opened fire on the group. Two men were wounded; one remains in the hospital. Names of the three survivors are withheld for their safety. They have not been provided with protection and we believe they could be at risk of further attacks.

This is the latest attack on the indigenous people of the Triqui region since they established the autonomous municipality of San Juan Copala of approximately 700 inhabitants on January 1, 2007. We have written three previous letters to you concerning killings and acts of violence against MULTI supporters that have occurred in the last several months (cf letters of May 12, June 1, and September 15, 2010). According to the State Attorney General's Office, none of those responsible for the attacks, including sexual violence against women and girls, have been brought to justice.

We are **again** strongly urging that you:

- provide the three survivors with effective protection in strict accordance with their wishes;
- carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into this incident and into other killings and attacks which have taken place in the Triqui region, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice;
- investigate alleged links between local authorities and armed groups operating in the Triqui region.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

cc: Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos "Bartolome Carrasco" ~ via e-mail
 Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 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
 Dinah Shelton, US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: (202)458-6002
 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/110/10Update_Mexico

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