

via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 Lic. José Francisco Blake Mora Minister of Interior of Mexico	via fax: 01152 961 618 8050 ext. 21122 Lic. Juan José Sabines Guerrero Governor of the State of Chiapas, Mexico
via fax: 011 52 961 616 5724 Mtro. Raciél Lopez Salazar Attorney General of the State of Chiapas, Mexico	

December 1, 2010

Dear Sirs:

We, members of the InterReligious Taskforce on Central America, are extremely concerned for the safety of community activist **Margarita Guadalupe Martínez**. On November 24, as she left a café in San Cristobal de las Casas, she was approached by three men, two on foot and one in a pick-up truck, and told "do as we tell you; otherwise we'll shoot you." She was given a letter addressed to 'Diego,' the head of Fray Bartolome de las Casas Human Rights Center, a local organization which represents Margarita Martinez in a case she initiated against police officers and other officials who carried out an illegal raid on her home on November 8, 2009. The letter, cut out in newsprint, stated "Diego, the lives of the Martínez family is in your hands, you will face charges. . . "

The men then told Margarita Martínez to take a taxi to the cemetery "so that you can talk to your dead ones because you will soon meet them" and then to the municipal market. She took a taxi and could see that the three men were following her in a pick-up truck. When the men lost sight of her because of traffic, she got out and ran away.

This is our third letter this year (cf Feb. 11 and Mar. 6) concerning attacks and death threats to Margarita Martínez and her husband, Adolfo Guzman, since the raid on their home in November 2009. Margarita Martínez had a police officer allocated to her on November 24, but when she came out of the café, she could not find the officer. Shortly afterwards, she was threatened by her assailants.

Again we **strongly urge** you to:

- provide Margarita Martínez and her family with effective protection in strict accordance with their wishes;
- carry out a full and impartial investigation into the death threats described above and into previous acts of intimidation against Margarita Martínez and her family;
- fulfill your duty to guarantee the safety of all human rights defenders as established by the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinator

cc: 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 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)458-3650
 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 Boccieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

UA/16/10/Mexico update

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