



InterReligious Task Force on Central America  
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via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 <b>Lic. José Francisco Blake Mora</b> Minister of the Interior of Mexico	via fax: 011 52 951 502 0530 <b>Lic. Gabino Cué Monteagudo</b> Governor of the State of Oaxaca, Mexico
via fax: 011 52 951 501 6900 ext. 20635 <b>Lic. Manuel de Jesús López López</b> Attorney General the State of Oaxaca, Mexico	

January 14, 2011

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about the ongoing pattern of death threats and harassment against human rights lawyer **Alba Cruz** that continue to put her safety at risk. On January 11 at 11:33 a.m. she received a new intimidating text message on her mobile phone: "We know more about your protégés, how many steps you walk per block. . .you didn't accept what we offered. . .we're back." It was sent from the same mobile number as previous threats against her and one of her defendants (cf our letter of April 2, 2010.) We believe it is a further attempt to stop her from defending victims of torture, ill-treatment and politically motivated prosecution related to the public demonstrations and police abuses in Oaxaca State starting in 2006 as part of a campaign to force the state governor to resign.

Alba Cruz is the attorney for Juan Manuel Martínez, a political activist who had been unjustly charged in the 2008 murder of US journalist Brad Will. In February 2010, a federal court ruled that the charges against him were baseless and he was released. Since his release, however, he and members of his family have been threatened and intimidated on numerous occasions (cf our letter of October 1, 2010).

In 2007 the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ordered Mexico to provide Alba Cruz with protection measures. Although the government has agreed with her on necessary measures, to date it has failed to grant her any meaningful protection. Those responsible for the threats and acts of intimidation remain at large.

We therefore **strongly urge** you to:

- implement all protection measures agreed to with Alba Cruz following the request by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;
- carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into all acts of harassment, intimidation and death threats against her, make the results public and bring those responsible to justice; and
- adopt and implement an effective and comprehensive protection program (mecanismo de protección) for all human rights defenders at risk.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Coordinator

cc: Alba Cruz, via email : [codigo.dh@gmail.com](mailto:codigo.dh@gmail.com)  
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 & Portman ~ via email  
US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

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