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| via fax 011 52 55 5093 3414<br><b>Lic. José Francisco Blake Mora</b><br>Minister of the Interior of Mexico                           | via fax 011 52 951 502 0530 to 0538<br><b>Lic. Gabino Cué Monteagudo</b><br>Attorney General of the State of Oaxaca, Mexico |
| via fax 011 52 951 501 6900 ext. 20635<br><b>Lic. Manuel de Jesús López López</b><br>Attorney General of the State of Oaxaca, Mexico |   |

February 7, 2011

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply concerned for the safety of Mexican trade unionist and Oaxacan political activist **Marcelino Coache and his family**. On January 31 Marcelino Coache's son, Edgar Coache Verano, received a death threat saying, "he's going to die..." We believe this threat referred to Marcelino Coache.

This is the latest in a series of acts of intimidation against Marcelino Coache. On March 4, 2009, he was abducted, beaten and tortured for several hours by three men in Oaxaca City. During the same month, as his son was walking home from school, he was followed by several unidentified men in a van who shouted insults and threats at him. In April and August 2009, Marcelino Coache's wife, Reyna Rivera, received several threatening messages on her mobile phone as did other Oaxacan human rights defenders who have been supporting Marcelino Coache. We have called your attention to each of these abuses in previous communications (cf letters of 4/3/2009, 5/13/2009, 8/26/2009).

We are convinced that these threats and acts of intimidation are related to the fact that Marcelino Coache is a leading member of the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (APPO), which has been campaigning to bring to justice those responsible for human rights violations during Oaxaca's 2006 political crisis.

On May 8, 2009, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights asked the Mexican government to provide protection for Marcelino Coache. To date, the Mexican government has failed to provide him with effective protection. Furthermore, those responsible for the threats and intimidation remain at large. This represents an egregious violation of Marcelino Coache's rights as a citizen of Mexico!

**In view of the information cited above, we strongly urge that you**

- ensure that Marcelino Coache and his family are given appropriate protection in accordance with their wishes;
- order a prompt and impartial investigation into the attacks and threats suffered by Marcelino Coache and his family and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

cc: Alba Cruz, attorney for Marcelino Coache ~ 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 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)458-3992  
 José de Jesús Orozco Henríquez, Mexico member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: (202)458-3992  
 US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

UA 68/09\_4<sup>th</sup> update/Mexico

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