

via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 <b>Lic. Jose Francisco Blake Mora</b> Minister of the Interior, Mexico	via fax: 011 52 55 5346 0909 <b>Marisela Ibañez Morales</b> Attorney General of Mexico
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July 4, 2011

Dear Sir and Madam:

We, members of the InterReligious Task Force on Central America, are gravely concerned for the safety of indigenous rights activists **Obtilia Eugenio Manuel** and **Cuahtémoc Ramírez Rodríguez**. Obtilia Eugenio Manuel is the president of the Me'phaa Indigenous People's Organization (OPIM), and her husband Cuahtemoc Ramirez is one of its leaders.

On June 16 they discovered a threatening note at their home telling them to stop pressuring the government about the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) sentences on the cases of Valentina Rosendo Cantu and Ines Fernández, two indigenous women who recently won their case before the IACHR for their rape by members of the military in 2002. The note also made threats against the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre, which has worked with the two activists. The note warned them: "we will never let you alone even if you ask for protection from the government...if you don't keep quiet we kill you...protection is worth shit, we are protected."

A week earlier Manuel and Rodriguez were outside their office in Ayutla, Guerrero, with other OPIM members when soldiers stopped and searched them without explanation. One soldier kicked Obtilia Eugenio Manuel in the ankle. Eventually the military withdrew with no further action.

Obtilia Eugenio Manuel and Cuahtemoc Ramirez are among 107 human rights defenders in Guerrero subject to protection orders (*medidas provisionales*) by the IACHR, which have not been effectively enforced by the authorities. Obtilia Eugenio Manuel has been the target of threats since 2004.

We strongly urge you take the following steps to preserve justice in Guerrero state:

- provide Obtilia Eugenio Manuel and Cuahtémoc Ramírez Rodríguez with effective protection measures, in strict accordance with their wishes, and as ordered by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights;
- carry out a swift, full and impartial investigation into the anonymous threat against them on June 16 and the aggressive military stop and search on June 6. Make the results public and bring to justice those who are responsible for these threats and intimidation.

This is the tenth letter we have written in the past three years to officials in Mexico and Guerrero demanding protection for members of OPIM. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

cc: Red Solidaria Decada Contra la Impunidad ~ via email  
 Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 728 1698  
 John Feeley, Charge d'Affaires, US Embassy in Mexico ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5080-2834  
 Greg Sprow, 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

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