

via fax 011 52 55 5093 3414 Lic. Jose Francisco Blake Mora Minister of the Interior of Mexico	via fax 011 52 55 5346 0908 Marisela Morales Ibanez Attorney General of Mexico
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July 6, 2011

Dear Sirs:

We are concerned for the safety of **Lydia Cacho**, a journalist and human rights defender, who is based in Cancún, Quintana Roo state. She has received new death threats by email and telephone.

On June 14 Lydia Cacho received a death threat by email, which was sent to the Lydia Cacho Foundation based in Spain. On June 17 she received another threat by telephone from an unknown man. Both threats referred to her work as a journalist and warn her to shut her mouth or she would be killed, and that this was her last warning. Complaints have been filed with police, both in Mexico (Dirección General de la Policía), and in Spain (Guardia Civil).

Lydia Cacho started to receive multiple threats and harassment after publishing a book in 2005, in which she exposed a child pornography ring which allegedly operated with the knowledge and protection of politicians and business people of the states of Quintana Roo and Puebla. As a result of defamation cases brought against Lydia Cacho and irregular legal proceedings, she was temporarily detained in December 2006 and subject to threats and harassment. Taped phone conversations that were later published in the media implicated former senior government officials of Puebla in her detention and harassment. In March 2009, the National Human Rights Commission concluded she had suffered physical and psychological ill-treatment at the hands of the police who detained her.

She has continued to receive threats. In 2009, The Inter-American Human Rights Commission requested that the Mexican government provide protection measures for Lydia Cacho. In 2010, Lydia Cacho published another book, again uncovering trafficking of women and girls and revealing names of individuals allegedly linked to these criminal networks.

We have previously written on behalf of Lydia Cacho. Because of our concern for her safety, we urge you to

- provide Lydia Cacho with effective protection measures in accordance with her wishes, and as ordered by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights;
- conduct a swift, full and impartial investigation into the anonymous threats, make the results of the investigation public, and bring those responsible to justice.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Program Coordinator

Copies: Fundación Lydia Cacho ~ via fax
Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 728 1698
Political Affairs Sections, US Embassy to 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 you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter: