

via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 Lic. Jose Francisco Blake Mora Minister of the Interior of Mexico	via fax: 011 52 961 618 8050, ext.: 21122 Lic. Juan Jose Sabines Guerrero Governor of the State of Chiapas, Mexico
via fax: 011 52 961 6165724 Mtro. Raciél Lopez Salazar Attorney General of the State of Chiapas, Mexico	

November 2, 2011

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply distressed over the continued death threats to **Magarita Martínez** and her husband, **Adolfo Guzman Ordaz**, community activists in Chiapas State. On the morning of October 20 Margarita Martínez found an envelope under their car, which was parked inside the walls of their home in San Cristobal de las Casas. The written message stated: "Just so you know there is no justice so best shut your mouth if you don't want to disappear, we are the law and we are protected, death death death." The police guards, permanently stationed at their house as part of protection measures, denied seeing how the envelope had been placed inside the house.

Later that day, six representatives of the Chiapas State Attorney General's Office were aggressive and intimidating when they arrived at the house and refused to respect the couple's request not to be filmed. The officials left after Adolfo Guzman Ordaz called the local human rights organization, Fray Bartolome de las Casas Human Rights Centre, to tell them about the aggressive behavior.

Adolfo Guzmán works for the community organization Enlace Comunicación y Capacitación (Communication and Training Link), which provides human rights and sustainable economic development training for rural and indigenous communities. Margarita Martínez has been an activist with several local civil society organizations and had recently volunteered in delivering training for Communication and Training Link.

This is our fourth letter to officials in Chiapas and Mexico D.F. urging protection for the couple. The couple received threats in December 2009 and on several occasions in 2010 after filing a complaint against judicial police for an illegal raid on their home in Comitán, Chiapas, in November 2009 (cf our letter of Feb 1 2010). In February 2010, Margarita Martínez was abducted, beaten and threatened so as to deter the couple from pursuing their complaint (cf our letter of Mar 6 2010). She was again threatened Nov 24 2010 (cf our letter of Dec 1 2010). As a result of these threats, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ordered the government to provide them with protection.

In light of the most recent threats against their lives, we **again urge you to**

- ensure effective and immediate protection for Adolfo Guzman, Margarita Martínez and their children, and conduct a full review of existing measures in accordance with their wishes;
- order a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the death threat against them on October 20 and other threats received since 2009, and bring those responsible be brought to justice.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
 Coordinato

CC: Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 728 1698
 Earl Anthony Wayne, US Ambassador 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: