

via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414 Dr. Alejandro Poiré Romero Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Mexico	via fax: 011 52 55 5346 0908 Marisela Morales Ibáñez Attorney General of the Republic of Mexico
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December 13, 2011

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are deeply concerned for the safety of **Eva Alarcón** and **Marcial Bautista** of the Organización de Campesinos Ecológicos de la Sierra de Petatlán y Coyuca de Catalán (OCESP) and supporters of the Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity (MPJD). On December 7 they were traveling from their homes in Guerrero state for meetings in Mexico City with other MPJD activists when armed men boarded their bus, identified the two by name, forced them off the bus at gunpoint and abducted them. The authorities have initiated an investigation, but their whereabouts remain unknown.

Their abduction follows a December 6 incident in which 12 MPJD activists from Mexico City visited the Nahuatl Indigenous Community of Santa María Ostula, Michoacán State, to observe community measures to resolve a land conflict which has left more than 27 people dead since 2009. Armed men ambushed the activists and abducted **Trinidad de la Cruz Crisóforo**, a 73 year-old community leader and MPJD supporter. His shot and tortured body was found on December 7. The ambush took place shortly after a Federal Police officer who was providing protection to the group left the vicinity. MPJD is reviewing its security measures.

The MPJD was founded by the poet, Javier Sicilia, whose son was killed by a criminal gang. He has led a national campaign to end violence, human rights violations and impunity that have become endemic in many parts of Mexico. Supporters of the MPJD are increasingly being targeted and attacked for their activities.

We **strongly urge** you to:

- determine the location of Eva Alarcón and Marcial Bautista and ensure their safety;
- guarantee the safety of MPJD supporters so they can continue their peaceful activities;
- conduct a prompt, complete, and impartial investigation into the abduction and killing of Trinidad de la Cruz Crisóforo in Santa María Ostula on December 6 , and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Coordinator

CC: Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos de México ~ via email
 Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social, A.C: ~ via email
 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 ~ 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 you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter: