

| | |
|--|--|
| via fax 011 52 55 5093 3416 Dr. Alejandro Poire Romero Minister of the Interior of Mexico | via fax: 011 52 747 471 9956 Lic. Angel Heladio Aguirre Rivero Governor of Guerrero State, Mexico |
|--|--|

June 13, 2012

Dear Sirs:

We are deeply concerned for the safety of **Vidulfo Rosales Sierra**, human rights defender and legal coordinator at the Tlachinollan Human Rights Center in Guerrero State. On May 3, he and his colleagues had been reviewing the cases brought against the alleged perpetrators of the killing of two students by security forces at a demonstration in Ayotzinapa in January 2012. On May 4 he received a typed anonymous death threat delivered to the office of the Network of Civil Human Rights Organizations of Guerrero, of which the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre is a member.

The threat made reference to the human rights work Vidulfo Rosales Sierra has done denouncing abuses by police and militaries and specifically to the case he and his colleagues were currently reviewing. It stated: "Vidulfo...shut up or we will send you back home in pieces... stop defaming the authorities...you get involved in everything, La Parota, the so-called raped women, and now with the Ayotzinapa vandals...You are going to die ha ha ha. Yours, The Law"

Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre has been representing communities who oppose the La Parota hydro-electric power project in the rural part of Acapulco, Guerrero State. They have also worked on the cases of Inés Fernández Ortega and Valentina Rosendo Cantú, who were both raped by members of the military in 2002. In April 2009, as a result of their work on these cases, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ordered the State to protect Vidulfo Rosales Sierra, the Tlachinollan team and other organizations involved in bringing the cases against the military.

In addition to defending students who had charges brought against them as a result of student protests in Ayotzinapa in January 2012, they have brought cases against public officials and security forces accused of extrajudicial executions, torture and arbitrary detentions.

In view of this information, we **strongly urge** that you

- protect Vidulfo Rosales Sierra and other members of the Tlachinollan Human Rights Center, in accordance with their wishes;
- investigate the death threat to Vidulfo Rosales Sierra and bring those responsible to justice.

We are well aware that defending human rights is life-threatening work in Mexico. Many activists have suffered death threats, intimidation, and harassment in the last few years. We again remind you that you have the power and the consequent responsibility to see that human rights activists within your jurisdiction are protected.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre ~ 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
Rodrigo Escobar Gil, Rapporteur for Mexico, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: (202)458-3992
US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Renacci, Ryan, Sutton ~ via email

UA , 146/12_Mexico

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