

via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414

Estimado Ministro Dr. Alejandro Poiré Romero
Minister of the Interior, Mexico

via email: secparticular@chiapas.gob.mx

Estimado Gobernador Juan Jose Sabines Guerrero
Governor of Chiapas, Mexico

July 13, 2012

Dear Minister Poiré and Governor Sabines:

We are very concerned for the safety of **Margarita Guadalupe Martínez Martínez, her husband Adolfo Guzman Ordaz**, and their family. She was threatened with death as a reprisal for bringing a case against public officials. She and her family are at grave risk.

On June 30 a note was hand-delivered to her family business in the city of San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. The writer demanded that she stop pursuing police officers and other public officials who conducted an illegal raid on her home, that she accept a pay-off to drop the charges, and then leave the country. The writers of the note then threatened her with death: "if you make this letter public, you'll be put on the list of the disappeared."

The police illegally raided her home (without a warrant) on November 8, 2009, apparently in reprisal for the work the couple does supporting local indigenous communities in the municipality of Comitan, Chiapas. The couple filed a complaint and have since been the victims of retaliation, including the temporary abduction and beating of Margarita Guadalupe Martínez Martínez in February 2010. The family moved to San Cristobal de las Casas for safety, and has been receiving some protection as a result of a protection order (*medidas cautelares*) issued by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2010.

The note of June 30 also mentions the Fray Bartolome de las Casas Human Rights Centre, which is representing Margarita Guadalupe Martínez Martínez in the case involving the illegal raid. The writers state that they will contract assassins to make sure that the case and the work of the organization cannot proceed.

Since 2010 we have written four letters to officials in Mexico D.F. and Chiapas urging protection for Margarita Guadalupe Martínez Martínez and her husband Adolfo Guzman Ordaz. Because of this recent threat, **we again urge that you:**

- provide effective protection to Margarita Guadalupe Martínez Martínez, her husband Adolfo Guzman Ordaz, and their two children, in accordance with their wishes, as ordered by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2010;
- investigate this threat, as well as the previous acts of intimidation in 2010, and resolve the case against public officials for the raid on the family's home in November 2009, ensuring that all the perpetrators of all of these abuses are held to account;
- guarantee the safety of all staff at the Fray Bartolome de las Casas Human Rights Centre, in accordance with their wishes, so that they can carry out their work defending human rights.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Coordinator

cc: Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolome de las Casas ~ via email accionurgente@frayba.org.mx

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

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

