

via fax: 011 52 55 5346 0908

**Jesús Murillo Karam**  
Attorney General of the Republic of Mexico

via fax: 011 52 747 471 9956

**Lic. Angel Heladio Aguirre Rivero**  
Governor of Guerrero State, Mexico

July 14, 2013

Dear Sirs:

We are outraged at the killing of three members members of the *Unidad Popular* (Popular Unit, or UP) in Iguala, Guerrero State. On June 3, the bodies of **Arturo Hernández Cardona**, **Ángel Román Ramírez**, and **Félix Rafael Bandera** were found blindfolded and with signs of torture on a nearby highway. On May 30, they and five other UP members, **Héctor Arroyo Delgado**, **Efraín Amates Luna**, **Gregorio Dante Cervantes**, **Nicolás Mendoza Villa**, and **Jimmy Castejón** had taken part in a protest against the local government. Four of the other five men managed to escape their captors and have gone into hiding.

The UP is a recently formed organization which campaigns and lobbies for social projects and resources for local indigenous communities. They have also supported the movement of teachers in Guerrero. Arturo Hernández Cardona campaigned for local indigenous peoples for 15 years, including justice in the case of the El Charco massacre in 1998. On May 29 he and other UP members had filed a formal complaint against the mayor and other municipal authorities for corruption and harassment of the UP members.

On June 2 and June 4 UP members reported being watched and followed by men in vehicles. On June 8, Justino Osoreo Narciso, a UP leader, received an anonymous note warning the group to stop its activities. On June 17, Sofía Lorena Mendoza, a UP activist and the wife of Arturo Hernández Cardona, reported being followed by suspicious cars while she was on route to a meeting with government officials. On June 19, Bertoldo Martínez Cruz, a local political activist linked to the UP who had been in contact with the survivors, received a threatening phone call at his home.

An investigation by the State Attorney General's Office is underway, but the suspected involvement of local officials in the abductions and killings has led UP activists to urge for the investigation to be carried out by the Federal Attorney General's Office (PGR).

We **strongly urge** you to

- carry out a full, swift and impartial investigation into the abduction and killing of Arturo Hernández Cardona, Ángel Román Ramírez, and Félix Rafael Bandera Román;
- ensure the safety of survivors Héctor Arroyo Delgado, Efraín Amates Luna, Gregorio Dante Cervantes, Nicolás Mendoza Villa and Jimmy Castejón;
- ensure the safety of Justino Osoreo Narciso, Sofía Lorena Mendoza, Bertoldo Martínez Cruz and all members of the UP and their families; and
- conduct a full investigation into the threats and intimidation against UP activists and supporters, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai, Co-coordinator

cc: NGO Red Solidaria Década Contra la Impunidad 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  
Chris Andino, 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, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

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

