

via FAX: 011 52 55 5093 3414 Sr. Secretario Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong Minister of the Interior of Mexico	via FAX: 011 52 95 1501 8100, ext.40068 Lic. Gabino Cué Monteagudo Governor of Oaxaca State, Mexico
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February 21, 2014

Dear Sirs:

We are extremely concerned about the ongoing harassment of the **Popular Assembly of Juchitán (APPJ)** in the communal territories of Juchitán de Zaragoza on the Tehuantepec Isthmus in the state of Oaxaca. They are protesting the construction of an aquatic wind farm off the coast of San Dioniso de Mar, a town of about 5,000 residents. This project is just one of several transnational development projects being implemented under Proyecto Mesoamerica (formerly known as Plan Puebla Panama).

The APPJ was formed in February 2013 to oppose the wind farm Bií Hioxo, which is managed by the Spanish venture capital firm Gas Natural Fenosa (GNF), on the Tehuantepec Isthmus, where indigenous Ikoot people have lived for more than 3,000 years. The indigenous residents, who depend on fishing, oppose the project because the wind turbines would negatively impact aquatic life, threaten migratory birds, damage mangrove swamps and desecrate sacred Ikoot territory. The indigenous residents did not give free, prior and informed consent, which is required by international law.

Fourteen wind farms already exist on the isthmus; this would be the first constructed in the water. Residents have not benefited from lower electricity rates. They claim that new electricity is being generated to benefit large multinational corporations such as Coca-Cola, Walmart, Nestle, FEMSA and others.

In 2013 there were several incidents of harassment, surveillance and even assassination (Héctor Regalado Jiménez, shot six times August 1, 2013). The serious harassment and threats continue:

- Early on January 28, unknown persons razed and burned the APPJ protest camp to the ground. The camp was previously razed on October 15, 2013.
- On February 9, a group of masked Bií Hioxho construction workers, some of them carrying handguns, blocked residents from going to worship at the Guela Be'ñe' temple.
- On February 10, APPJ members **Mariano López Gómez** and **María Isabel Jiménez Salinas** received threats by phone.

This is the fourth letter we have sent in the past two years about the opposition of indigenous communities to wind farm construction on the Tehuantepec Isthmus. We **strongly urge** that you

- carry out a thorough, impartial and immediate investigation into the razing of the APPJ protest camp, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- investigate the threats to Mariano López Gómez and María Isabel Jiménez Salinas and provide them with protective measures, in strict accordance with their wishes; and
- take all necessary measures to guarantee the security of those who defend the rights of indigenous peoples, enshrined in Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Co-Coordinator

copies: Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza, 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
 James Cavallaro, Rapporteur for Mexico, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: (202)458-3992
 Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: (202)458-3650
 US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email
 US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

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