

via fax 011 52 95 1501 8100, ext. 40068

**Sr. Gobernador Lic. Gabino Cué Monteagudo**  
Governor of Oaxaca State, Mexico

via fax: 011 52 55 5093 3414

**Sr. Secretario Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong**  
Minister of the Interior of Mexico

March 23, 2014

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to express our deep concern for the safety of the indigenous family of **Pedro Martínez Guerra** in Juchitán de Zaragoza in Oaxaca State. To protect their land and agricultural way of life, they are resisting construction of a wind farm that was initiated without their consent.

**Mariano Martínez Martínez**, his father Pedro Martínez Guerra, and their family have been guarding the family's land in Juchitán de Zaragoza to prevent construction work on a wind farm being developed in the area by a natural gas company. An access road and a transmission tower were recently built on the family's land without legal permission. The family has lodged a complaint against the unauthorized construction work at the Juchitán Prosecutor's office. On February 24 a person who claimed the land belonged to him threatened to call the police if Pedro Martínez Guerra and his family did not leave. When the police arrived, Pedro Martínez Guerra showed them legal documents to prove that the land belonged to him. The police left without taking any action.

On February 27 an unknown man told Mariano Martínez Martínez: "If you all do not get out of here, we will kill you all right here." Mariano Martínez Martínez, his family and other members of the indigenous community are members of Assembly of Indigenous Peoples of the Isthmus in Defense of Land and Territory (APIIDTT). APIIDTT members have protested that the construction of wind farms around the Tehuantepec Isthmus was begun without consulting the local indigenous people. As a result of their opposition, they have been subject to threats and intimidation for several months.

These are ongoing threats to indigenous communities exercising their right to protect their lands. In 2013, we wrote to you about threats to other people involved in resisting construction of wind farms around the Tehuantepec Isthmus (cf our letters Feb 12 and Apr 26).

We **therefore strongly urge** that you

- guarantee the safety of Pedro Martínez Guerra, his son Mariano Martínez Martínez and their family, who are peacefully defending their land against the construction of wind farms;
- carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the death threat received by Mariano Martínez Martínez and bring those responsible to justice;
- ensure that the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous communities affected by the wind farms is obtained on the basis of reliable and accurate information on the impacts of the project.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
Co-Coordinator

copies: APIIDTT: Asamblea de Pueblos Indígenas del Istmo en Defensa de la Tierra y el Territorio, ~ via email  
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 email: [andinoc@state.gov](mailto:andinoc@state.gov)  
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 and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

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