

<p>via fax: 011 52 95 1501 8100, ext. 40068 Estimado Gobernador Lic. Gabino Cué Monteagudo Governor of Oaxaca State, Mexico</p>	<p>via email: ofproc@pgr.gob.mx Estimada Señora Procuradora Arely Gómez González Attorney General of Mexico</p>
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November 23, 2015

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are writing to express our deep concern for the freedom and safety of human rights defenders **Rocio Celeste Martínez Gregorio** and **Fidel Desiderio Martínez**. Rocio Celeste Martínez Gregorio works with the Mixe community in Oaxaca as part of the community feminist movement and also collaborates with the Colectivo Mujer Nueva, which promotes women's rights and their community participation. She and Fidel Desiderio Martínez have played an important role in the student rights' movement in Oaxaca and both have participated in actions in solidarity with victims of human rights violation and political prisoners.

On October 2, as they were walking through Oaxaca City on their way to a meeting at the Centre for the Defense of Human Rights of the People of Oaxaca (DDHPO), state police arrested them, took them to the Secretariat of Public Security (SSP) where they were held for seven hours without being told why they had been arrested. They were then brought to the Public Prosecutor of the State of Oaxaca, still without any explanation for their detention. The only "evidence" the state police presented to the Public Prosecutor were the time of detention and the belongings of the human rights defenders. The Public Prosecutor declared the detention legal and charged them with "damages."

On October 11 Judge Sexto de lo Penal of the Distrito Judicial del Centro dropped the "damages" charges and released **Rocio Celeste Martínez Gregorio** and **Fidel Desiderio Martínez**.

We remain concerned, however, for the safety and freedom of other human rights defenders who are unjustly detained and face criminal charges. We are aware that, according to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Méndez, the use of torture in detention centers in Mexico is widespread and occurs in a context of impunity. We therefore **strongly urge** that you

- end the criminalization of social protest and the legitimate work of human rights defenders
- fully implement the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, with particular attention to Articles 1, 5a, and 12.2
- carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the detention of Rocio Celeste Martínez Gregorio and Fidel Desiderio Martínez, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice
- end all forms of harassment, including at the judicial level, of Rocio Celeste Martínez Gregorio and Fidel Desiderio Martínez and guarantee their freedom and security
- ensure that all human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai and Christine Stonebraker-Martínez
Co-Coordinators

copies: Mexican Commission for Defense and Promotion of Human Rights ~ via email
Lic. Arturo Peimbert Calvo, Defender of Human Rights of the People of Oaxaca ~ via email
Dr. Miguel Basáñez Ebergényi, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 833 4320
Earl Anthony Wayne, US Ambassador to Mexico ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5080-2834
Vaida Vidugiris, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via email
James Cavallaro, Rapporteur for Mexico, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: (202)458-3992
Tracy Robinson, Rapporteur on the Rights of Women, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email
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:

