

IRTF

InterReligious Task Force on Central America

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via fax: 011 52 95 1501 8100, ext. 40068
Estimado Gobernador
Lic. Gabino Cué Monteagudo
Governor of Oaxaca State, Mexico

via email: ofproc@pgr.gob.mx
Estimada Señora Procuradora
Arely Gómez González
Attorney General of Mexico

January 26, 2016

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are shocked at the murder of journalist **Marcos Hernández Bautista**, age 38, a reporter for the daily *Noticias, Voz e Imagen de Oaxaca*. He was also a municipal councilor of culture in Santiago Jamiltepec and a contributor to radio stations in Pinotepa Nacional and Santiago Jamiltepec. He was shot in the head with a 9mm pistol as he entered his car outside a bar on January 21 in the municipality of San Andrés Huaxpaltepec in Oaxaca State.

The editorial director of *Noticias, Voz e Imagen de Oaxaca* said that Hernández "took on the topic of local *cacicazgos*" (local strongmen who rule parts of the region) and wrote about their alleged influence in local politics. He had been working on stories about local indigenous radio stations, the visit of politician and former presidential candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador and an investigation about district realignment for elections and its impact on powerful groups. Because his stories covered sensitive issues, his editor said he "was often in fear."

The Mexican Regional Office of Article 19, an international human rights organization, has documented nine murders of journalists of Oaxaca since 2000. We believe that Marcos Hernández Bautista was murdered for his journalistic endeavors. We **strongly urge** that you thoroughly investigate his murder, determine the motive, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice.

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 Ebergenyi, 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
Edison Lanza, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, 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

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