

via US mail Estimado Sr. Presidente Andrés Manuel López Obredor President of the Republic of Mexico	via email: ofproc@pgr.gob.mx Sr. Fiscal Alejandro Gertz Manero Attorney General of Mexico
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January 25, 2019

We are saddened and horrified by the murder of human rights defender **Sinar Corzo Esquinca** in Arriaga, Chiapas. At 9:45pm on January 3, he died instantly close to his home when unidentified men on a motorcycle shot him in the head at close range.

Sinar Corzo Esquinca was a member of the *El Coloso de Piedra* (Stone Colossus) Citizen Committee for the Defense of Human Rights. He was recognized for his defense of the right to water, health, security and basic services for citizens of diverse communities. He worked for reconstruction from damages caused by the earthquake of September 7, 2017. During that time he received threats from armed men because of his support for a rural road project. Hours before his death on January 3, he met with municipal authorities in Arriaga to discuss issues related to the construction of La Linea highway and the improvement of fishing communities.

On January 4, the day after the assassination, over 100 human rights organizations, including Fray Bartolome de Las Casas Human Rights Center, released a statement condemning previous death threats that Sinar Corzo Esquinca had been receiving from officials of both the state government and the city of Arriaga. We were glad to learn on January 17 that the Fiscalía General de Chiapas (Public Prosecutor's office) had detained three suspects in the assassination, including the father-in-law of David Parada Vázquez, Mayor of Arriaga.

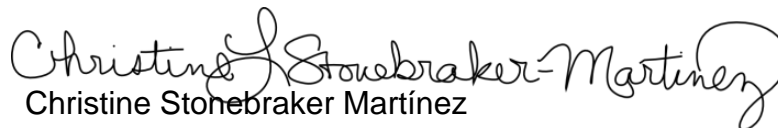
Because of our concern for the fragile situation in which human rights defenders find themselves in the state of Chiapas, we **strongly urge** that you

- conduct an exhaustive and impartial investigation into the murder of Sinar Corzo Esquinca (which includes finding the intellectual authors), publish the results, and bring those responsible to justice;
- implement precautionary measures to protect the family of Sinar Corzo and the members of El Coloso de Piedra, in strict accordance with their wishes

Sincerely,



Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Co-Coordinator



Christine Stonebraker Martínez

copies: Martha Bárcena Coqui, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via email
 John S. Creamer, Chargé d'Affairs, US Embassy in Mexico ~ via fax and US mail
 Political Officer, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via email
 Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño, Rapporteur for Mexico, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email
 Antonia Urrejola, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email
 SPaz ~ via email
 US Senators Brown & Portman
 US Representatives Beatty, Fudge, Gibbs, Gonzalez, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Ryan ~ via email

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