

<p>via US mail and email Sr. Gobernador Alejandro Ismael Murat Hinojosa Governor of the State of Oaxaca</p>	<p>via US mail and email Dr. Rubén Vasconcelos Méndez Attorney General of Oaxaca</p>
<p>via US mail Sr. Raúl Ernesto Salcedo Rosales Secretary of Public Security of Oaxaca</p>	<p>via US mail and email Sr. Arturo Peimbert Calvo Ombudsperson for Human Rights of the State of Oaxaca</p>

July 31, 2020

Dear Sirs:

We are writing because of our deep concern for the safety and well-being of imprisoned human rights defender **Fredy García**, the spokesperson for the Committee for the Defense of Indigenous Peoples (CODEDI), who was beaten and threatened by prison guards in Tanivet prison in Tlacolula, Oaxaca.

On the morning of July 10, guards entered Fredy Garcia's cell and severely beat him, saying that they were acting on "orders from above." They threatened him to not issue a complaint against them, transferred him to an isolated area of the prison, and then continued to beat him. On July 12 he was transferred to a cell in a different block where his use of the telephone is severely restricted, and he is forced to work outdoors in areas with very little shade.

Shortly after this incident, the wife of Fredy García traveled six hours to visit him during usual visiting hours (9am-5pm) but was restricted to a 20-minute visit. She saw his injuries, including several bruises and a blood spill in his left eye. Prison authorities told her that Fredy García was currently placed in a punishment zone of the prison.


The arrest and criminalization of Freddy Garcia is part of a strategy of intimidation and violence against indigenous and environmental rights defenders. He has been in Tanivet prison since November of 2019 on fabricated charges of "assault," "injuries" and "aggravated robbery." A scheduled court date in March 2020 was postponed as a consequence of COVID-19 and has not been rescheduled.

We strongly urge you to

- conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into the harsh treatment of Fredy García, publish the results, and bring the perpetrators to justice
- take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of Fredy Garcia, including the provision of quality medical care
- guarantee that the treatment of Fredy García in detention adheres to the conditions established in the "Set of Principles for the protection of all persons under any form of detention or prison," adopted by resolution 43/173 of the UN General Assembly of December 9, 1988

As a consequence of your high position in the State of Oaxaca, you have the ability and the obligation to protect the rights of all your citizens. We encourage you to do so.

Sincerely,


Brian J. Stefan Szittai
Co-Coordinator


Christine Stonebraker-Martinez

copies: Sr. Presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador, President of the Republic of Mexico ~ via US mail
Olga Sánchez Cordero, Minister of the Interior of Mexico ~ via email
Martha Bárcena Coqui, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via email
Christopher Landau, US Ambassador Mexico ~ via email
David Rodríguez, Political Officer, Office of Mexican Affairs, US State Dept ~ via US mail and email
Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño, Rapporteur for Mexico, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via US mail and email
Edgar Stuardo Ralón Orellana, Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via US mail and email
Antonia Urrejola Noguera, Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via US mail and email
Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights, a joint program of OMCT:World Organization Against Torture and FIDH:International Federation of Human Rights ~ via email
US Senators Brown & Portman ~ via email
US Representatives Beatty, Fudge, Gibbs, Gonzalez, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Ryan ~ via email

15 July 2020 FrontlineDefenders_Mexico

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