



International Network for Economic, Social & Cultural Rights  
Red Internacional para los Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales  
Réseau international pour les droits économiques, sociaux et culturels  
الشبكة العالمية للحقوق الاقتصادية والاجتماعية و الثقافية

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Lic. Felipe de Jesús Calderón Hinojosa.**  
Presidente Constitucional de la República Mexicana

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Newe Sogobia/United  
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*International Women's  
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*Alliance for Holistic and  
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of Communities, India*

**Lic. Javier Rueda Vázquez**  
Secretario de Seguridad Pública del Estado de Oaxaca

Sr. Legborsi Saro  
*Pyagbara  
Movement for the  
Survival of the Ogoni  
People—MOSOP,  
Nigeria*

**RE: Attack against convoy of international human rights observers in Oaxaca,  
Mexico – two confirmed dead, numerous injured**

Sr. Wilder Sánchez  
*Chávez  
Confederación  
Campesina del Perú—  
CCP, Perú*

ESCR-Net is the largest global initiative of organizations and activists devoted to achieving economic, social and environmental justice through human rights. ESCR-Net core membership consists of 217 organizations and individuals from 66 countries.

Sra. Aye Aye Win  
*Dignity International,  
France*

We write to express our deep concern and indignation with the attack which occurred on April 27th against a convoy of human rights observers in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, in which two people were confirmed killed— Beatriz Alberta Cariño, head of ESCR-Net member CACTUS (Community Working Together Support Center), and Jiry Antero Jaakkola, a citizen of Finland accompanying the convoy. It has also been confirmed that at the moment at least 3 people remain missing, and that those injured from the attack have not been rescued. We strongly condemn the attack against this convoy of human rights activists and organizations, as well as the government of the State of Oaxaca for its failure to intervene in order to guarantee the security of the people and human rights defenders traveling as part of the human rights observation convoy. We urge Mexican authorities to take all necessary measures to conduct an independent, exhaustive and impartial investigation into this crime immediately, with the objective of identifying those materially and intellectually responsible within the framework of an independent and impartial criminal trial. Furthermore, we urge authorities to fulfill their fundamental

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obligation to protect citizens against any threat to human rights and, particularly, to the right to life and security by providing immediate and effective protection for the victims of the attack, as well as those who witnessed it.

According to reliable sources, at approximately 16:00 hours on April 27, 2010 a heavily armed group ambushed a convoy of 25 human rights observers travelling in four vehicles in an area close to San Juan Cópala known as “La Sabana.” The mission included members of the following human rights and civil society organizations: the Collective CACTUS, VOCAL (Oaxacan Voices Building Autonomy and Liberty), APPO (Popular Assembly of the Villages of Oaxaca); Network of Indigenous Radio and Communication of Southeast Mexico; and teachers from Section 22 of the National Union of Education Workers from San Juan Cópala. The convoy also included members of the press, and human rights defenders from various European countries including Finland, Italy, Germany, and Belgium. The convoy was en route to the autonomous municipality of San Juan Cópala to provide support to the local community, which has been without access to electricity, water, medical care, or basic necessities as the result of a continuing blockade imposed by an armed group. The convoy was also accompanying teachers who were going back from San Juan Cópala to the municipality to continue teaching. A further objective of the convoy was to document human rights abuses suffered by the indigenous Triquis communities of the area. For these reasons we believe that the attack on the convoy was directly related to the group’s legitimate involvement in the defense of human rights in the region of San Juan Cópala.

This episode is in itself disturbing. However, it is by no means an isolated case. Many human rights defenders in Mexico are continuously intimidated and attacked in numerous for their legitimate attempts to document human rights abuses. Just last November 27, 2009, we learned of the assassination of Mr. Mariano Abarca Roblero, a leader of the organization Frente Cívico de Chicomuselo, Mexico, and member of Red Mexicana de Afectados por la Minería (REMA), as a result ESCR-Net took up action with the Mexican authorities.

Therefore, based on the facts above, we urge all competent federal, state and municipal authorities in Mexico to:

- Provide immediate effective protection to the victim’s family, those who witnessed the attack, and the communities involved, according to their wishes;
- Make public immediately all information regarding the incident and events of April 27<sup>th</sup>;
- Assure that injured persons still located in the area of the incident are able to leave, and that they are attended to without delay;
- Carry out an independent, immediate, exhaustive and impartial investigation into the above-described facts, with the objective of identifying those responsible, trying them in a competent, independent, just and impartial court, and applying the appropriate penal and/or administrative sanctions as set out in the law as well as appropriate reparations;
- Take all immediate steps necessary to end the aggression, harassment, and violence suffered by human rights defenders in Mexico, and in particular the Triqui indigenous community and its human rights colleagues;
- Apply the articles set out in the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1998, especially in relation to the protection of

the right of each person “*individually or in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels*” (Art. 1), and in relation to the obligation of the state to guarantee “*the protection...of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration*” (Art. 12.2);

- Guarantee the respect for human rights and fundamental liberties throughout the country, in accordance with the international human rights norms signed and ratified by Mexico.

ESCR-Net, on behalf of its 217 members from 66 countries, would like to express its solidarity with the families of Ms. Beatriz Alberta Cariño and Jiry Antero Jaakkola's, their loved ones and fellow activists, as well as with the victims of this attack and the Triqui community in these. For their sake, we urge the authorities to take all necessary measures to fulfill the Mexican government's fundamental obligation to protect citizens against such egregious human rights abuses. Finally, we ask to be kept us informed about any measures taken.

Sincerely,

Members of the International Network of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

On behalf of ESCR-Net:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julieta Rossi', is written over a faint, circular watermark or stamp.

Julieta Rossi

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CC:

**Ms. Margaret Sekaggya**

UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

## Members of the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net)

| Organización   | País                            |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 3D -> Trade - Human Rights - Equitable Economy   | Suiza                           |
| Action Contre Impunitie Pour Les Droits Humains (ACIDH)  | República Democrática del Congo |
| Action for Social Rights - formerly Youth Movement for Peace and People's Rights (AfSoR)                                 | Sierra Leone                    |
| Actionaid International  | Sudáfrica                       |
| African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)   | Gambia                          |
| Afro-Colombian National Movement (CIMARRON)  | Colombia                        |
| Aliança para Promoção do Desenvolvimento da Comunidade de Hoji Ya Henda (APDCH)  | Angola                          |
| Alliance for Holistic and Sustainable Development of Communities (AHSDC)   | India                           |
| Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights   | Palestine                       |
| Amnesty International  | Reino Unido                     |
| Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)   | Tailandia                       |
| Asian Foundation for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)   | Tailandia                       |
| Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC)   | China                           |
| Asian Institute for Human Rights (AIHR)  | Tailandia                       |
| Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ)  | Argentina                       |
| Asociación Comité de Familiares de Víctimas de Violaciones a los Derechos Humanos " Marianella García Villas " (CODEFAM) | El Salvador                     |
| Asociación Q'ukumatz   | Guatemala                       |
| Association Africaine de Défense des Droits de l'Homme, représentation du Katanga (ASADHO/Katanga)                       | República Democrática del Congo |
| Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)   | Canada                          |
| Association Nigerienne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme (ANDDH)  | Niger                           |
| Association of Environmental Lawyers of Liberia (Green Advocates)  | Liberia                         |
| BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights (BAOBAB)   | Nigeria                         |
| Bretton Woods Project (BWP)  | Reino Unido                     |
| Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation (BGRF)  | Bulgaria                        |
| Bulgarian Helsinki Committee (BHC)   | Bulgaria                        |
| Butere Focused Women in Development (BUFOWODE)   | Kenya                           |
| Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR)   | Estados Unidos                  |
| Center for Economic and Social Rights  | España                          |
| Center for Economics, Social and Cultural Rights Promotion (ESCR-PRO)  | Tailandia                       |
| Center for Human Rights and Environment (CEDHA)  | Argentina                       |
| Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR)   | Estados Unidos                  |
| Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL)  | Estados Unidos                  |
| Center of Concern (COC)  | Estados Unidos                  |
| Center on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)   | Suiza                           |
| Centre d'Information Juridique/Femme Justice Aide (CIJG/FJA)   | Guinea Ecuatorial               |
| Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALs)  | Sudáfrica                       |
| Centre for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Hakijamii)  | Kenya                           |
| Centre for Equality Rights in Accomodation (CERA)  | Canada                          |

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| Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE)  | Kenya                |
| Centro de Apoyo Comunitario Trabajando Unidos (CACTUS)   | México               |
| Centro de Asesoría Laboral del Peru (CEDAL)  | Perú                 |
| Centro de Derechos Economicos y Sociales (CDES)  | Ecuador              |
| Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad (Dejusticia)                                | Colombia             |
| Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)   | Argentina            |
| Charter Committee on Poverty Issues (CCPI)   | Canada               |
| Collectif des Femmes du Mali (Le COFEM)  | Mali                 |
| Colombian Commission of Jurists (CCJ)  | Colombia             |
| Comision Mexicana de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CMDPDH)                | México               |
| Comité de Emergencia de Garífuna de Honduras   | Honduras             |
| Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative Organization (CHRI)                                       | India                |
| Community Law Centre, University of the Western Cape   | Sudáfrica            |
| Conectas Direitos Humanos  | Brazil               |
| Confederacion Campesina Del Peru (CCP)   | Perú                 |
| Corporate Accountability International   | Estados Unidos       |
| Desarrollo, Educación Y Cultura Autogestionarios Equipo Pueblo A.C. (DECA Equipo Pueblo, A.C.) | México               |
| Dignity International  | France               |
| EarthRights International (ERI)  | Estados Unidos       |
| Eastern Africa Coalition for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (EACOR)                      | Kenya                |
| Education and Research Association for Consumers Malaysia (ERA Consumers)                      | Malaysia             |
| Egyptian Center for Housing Rights (ECHR)  | Egipto               |
| Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)   | Egipto               |
| El Proyecto de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales (ProDESC)                            | México               |
| EnGendeRights  | Philippines          |
| Equalinrights  | Países Bajos         |
| ESCR-Asia  | Philippines          |
| Estudio Para La Defensa De Los Derechos De La Mujer (DEMUS)                                    | Perú                 |
| European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN)   | Belgium              |
| European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)   | Hungary              |
| Federação Dos Orgãos de Assistencia Social e Educacional (FASE)                                | Brazil               |
| Fédération Internationale des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH)   | France               |
| Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Kenya)   | Kenya                |
| Femmes Cote d'Ivoire Experience (FCIEX)  | Cote d'Ivoire        |
| Food First Information and Action Network Organization (FIAN)                                  | Germany              |
| Foro Ciudadano de Participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos (FOCO)                  | Argentina            |
| Foundation For Human Rights And Democracy (FOHRD)  | Liberia              |
| Frente Autentico del Trabajo (FAT)   | México               |
| Front Line - The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders         | Irlanda              |
| Fundacion Emmanuel Internacional (FEI)   | República Dominicana |
| Global Action on Aging   | Estados Unidos       |
| Global Basic Income Foundation (GBI)   | Países Bajos         |
| Habi Center for Environmental Rights   | Egipto               |

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| Habitat Int. Coalition-Housing & Land Rts. Network (HIC-HLRN)               | Egipto            |
| Harvard Project on Disability (HPOD)  | Estados Unidos    |
| Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights                           | Estados Unidos    |
| Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA)                           | Nigeria           |
| Human Rights Centre at the School of Law, Queens University Belfast         | Reino Unido       |
| Human Rights Law Resource Centre (HRLRC)                                    | Australia         |
| Human Rights Tech   | Estados Unidos    |
| Indonesian Legal Aid Society Association (Perkumpulan MBH)                  | Indonesia         |
| Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)                           | Suiza             |
| Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA)                             | Sudáfrica         |
| Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH)                           | Estados Unidos    |
| Instituto de Estudios Legales y Sociales del Uruguay (IELSUR)               | Uruguay           |
| Instituto de Estudos, Formação e Assessoria em Políticas Sociais (PÓLIS)    | Brazil            |
| Instituto de Formacion Feminina Integral (IFFI)                             | Bolivia           |
| Instituto Latinoamericano de Servicio Legales Alternativos (ILSA)           | Colombia          |
| Interchurch Organisation for Development (ICCO)                             | Países Bajos      |
| International Centre for Reproductive Health and Sexual Rights (INCREASE)   | Nigeria           |
| International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights (INTERIGHTS)  | Reino Unido       |
| International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)                                   | Suiza             |
| International Human Rights Internship Program                               | Estados Unidos    |
| International Women and Mining Network (RIMM)                               | India             |
| International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW-Asia Pacific) | Malaysia          |
| Justiça Global (JG)   | Brazil            |
| Karimojong Community Child Welfare Initiatives (KACOICI)                    | Uganda            |
| KEBETKACHE WOMEN DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCE CENTRE                              | Nigeria           |
| Kensington Welfare Rights Union (KWRU)                                      | Estados Unidos    |
| Kenya Land Alliance (KLA)   | Kenya             |
| Kituo Cha Sheria (Center for Legal Empowerment)                             | Kenya             |
| Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Center (LHAHRDEV)               | Nigeria           |
| Land Center for Human Rights (LCHR)   | Egipto            |
| Lawyers for a Democratic Society (MINBYUN)                                  | Republic of Korea |
| Legal Resources Centre (LRC)  | Sudáfrica         |
| Legal Resources Centre Organization (LRC)                                   | Ghana             |
| Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal (MASUM)                                    | India             |
| Maison des Droits de l'Homme du Cameroun (MDHC)                             | Cameroon          |
| Masimanyane Women's Support Center  | Sudáfrica         |
| Mazingira Institute   | Kenya             |
| Media Mobilizing Project (MMP)  | Estados Unidos    |
| mines,minerals & PEOPLE (mm&P)  | India             |
| Minority Rights Group International (MRGI)                                  | Uganda            |
| Mouvement pour le Progres de Roche Bois (MPRB)                              | Mauritius         |
| Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP)                       | Nigeria           |
| Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens (MAB)                                 | Brazil            |

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| Multi-Initiative on Rights: Search, Assist, Defend (MIRSAD)   | Lebanon           |
| Nairobi Peoples Settlements Network (NPSN)  | Kenya             |
| National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI)  | Estados Unidos    |
| National Union of Domestic Employees (NUDE)   | Trinidad y Tobago |
| Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD)   | Sierra Leone      |
| Observatoire Congolais des Droits de l'Homme (OCDH)   | Congo-Brazzaville |
| Observatorio de Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas (OBDPI)   | Chile             |
| Office of Human Rights Studies, Mahidol University (OHRSD)  | Tailandia         |
| Ogiek Peoples Development Program (OPDP)  | Kenya             |
| Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PPF)   | Pakistan          |
| People Against Injustice (PAIN)   | The Gambia        |
| People's Health Movement (PHM)  | Egipto            |
| People's Movement for Human Rights Learning (PDHRE)   | Estados Unidos    |
| Poverty Initiative  | Estados Unidos    |
| Programa DESC, Universidad Diego Portales   | Chile             |
| Programa Venezolano de Educacion Accion en Derechos Humanos (PROVEA)  | Venezuela         |
| Programme on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (PWESCR)  | India             |
| Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative (EGI)  | Estados Unidos    |
| Rencontre Pour LA Paix Et Les Droits De L'Homme (RPDH)  | Congo-Brazzaville |
| Rights and Accountability in Development (RAID)   | United Kingdom    |
| Samata  | India             |
| Shelter Forum (SF)  | Kenya             |
| Social and Economic Rights Action Center (SERAC)  | Nigeria           |
| Social and Economic Rights Action Center – Indonesia (SiDAN)  | Indonesia         |
| Social Rights Advocacy Centre (SRAC)  | Canada            |
| Socio Economic Rights Initiative (SERI ) (formerly Shelter Rights Initiative)                               | Nigeria           |
| Socio Legal Information Centre (HRLN)   | India             |
| Socio-Economic Rights Foundation (SRF)  | Kenya             |
| Sœurs Unies à l'œuvre (SUO)   | Benin             |
| South Africa Human Rights Non-Governmental Organization Network, Tanzania Chapter (SAHRiNGON-TZ)            | Tanzania          |
| Southeast Asian Council for Food Security and Fair Trade (SEACON)   | Malaysia          |
| Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN)   | Nigeria           |
| Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF)  | Tailandia         |
| Tebtebba Foundation (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) (TEBTEBBA) | Filipinas         |
| TERRA DE DIREITOS   | Brazil            |
| Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC)   | Thailand          |
| The Democracy and Workers' Rights Center in Palestine (DWRC)  | Palestine         |
| The Democracy Center  | Bolivia           |
| The Jus Semper Global Alliance (TJSGA)  | Estados Unidos    |
| The Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC)  | Kenya             |
| Tierraviva a los Pueblos Indígenas del Chaco  | Paraguay          |
| Tribunal de Mujeres y Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales  | Colombia          |

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| Uganda Environmental Education Foundation (UEEF) | Uganda         |
| Waso Trustland Project                           | Kenya          |
| Western Shoshone Defense Project (WSDP)          | Estados Unidos |
| WITNESS  | Estados Unidos |
| Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF)  | Ghana          |
| Women's Economic Agenda Project (WEAP)           | Estados Unidos |
| World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)        | Suiza          |
| Yiaku Peoples Association                        | Kenya          |
| Zi Teng  | Hong Kong      |
| ZIMBABWE WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (ZWLA)        | Zimbabwe       |

| <b>Nombre</b>                   | <b>País</b>                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Abdoul Aziz Niang               | Mauritania                      |
| Adams Aswani                    | Tanzania                        |
| Africa Magongo                  | Swaziland                       |
| Alicia Ely Yamin                | Estados Unidos                  |
| Alison Symington                | Canada                          |
| Anna Cody                       | Australia                       |
| Ayman Bardawil                  | Palestine                       |
| Carol Jane Ransley              | Tailandia                       |
| Chris Grove                     | Estados Unidos                  |
| Claire Mahon                    | Suiza                           |
| D.J. Ravindran                  | Thailand                        |
| Danwood M Chirwa                | Sudáfrica                       |
| Daria Caliquire                 | Estados Unidos                  |
| David Kinley                    | Australia                       |
| Deborah Ewing                   | Sudáfrica                       |
| Dolamohan Singh Babu            | India                           |
| Ganesh Devi                     | India                           |
| Ge Mingzhen                     | China                           |
| George Kent                     | Estados Unidos                  |
| In-duk Ryou                     | Republic of Korea               |
| Ingrid Gorre                    | Filipinas                       |
| Jacques Tshibwabwa Kuditshini   | República Democrática del Congo |
| K'nyaw Paw                      | Tailandia                       |
| Luisa Nardi                     | Italy                           |
| Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona     | Suiza                           |
| Malcolm Langford                | Noruega                         |
| Maria Herminia Graterol Garrido | Australia                       |
| Mary Jane Real                  | Tailandia                       |
| Maureen Meyer                   | Estados Unidos                  |
| Michael Lerner                  | Cambodia                        |
| Minar Pimple                    | Estados Unidos                  |

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|------------------------|----------------|
| Murielle Mignot        | Angola         |
| Patricia Ramirez Parra | Colombia       |
| Paulina Garzon         | Estados Unidos |
| Pemii Benedict         | Nigeria        |
| Raju Prasad Chapagai   | Nepal          |
| Rodrigo Bustos Bottai  | Chile          |
| Thomas Bruno Nzumbi    | Tanzania       |
| Tyler Giannini         | Estados Unidos |
| Vincent Calderhead     | Canada         |
| Yves Lador             | Suiza          |