

## **Human rights defenders, national and international organisations, demand security for members of Human Rights Centre Tlachinollan**

- **Vidulfo Rosales Sierra, lawyer of Tlachinollan receives threats.**
- **Organisations demand a full investigation and emergency protective measures**

### PRESS RELEASE

Today, the Human Rights Centre "Tlachinollan" reported Vidulfo Rosales Sierra, lawyer at the organization and beneficiary of provisional measures ordered by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR), recently received an anonymous threat note. The text refers to cases accompanied by the organization and says: "FUCKING LAWYER, STOP DEFAMING THE AUTHORITIES, YOU ARE PENDING ON SEVERAL ISSUES, YOU GET INTO EVERYTHING, THE PAROTA, THE SO-CALLED RAPED WOMEN, AND NOW THE VANDALS AYOTZINAPOS. SHUT UP [...] YOU ARE GONNA DIE".

Due to these facts, Tlachinollan filed a formal complaint before the Chief of Bureau of the Attorney General's Office of the State of Guerrero. (PGJE), Mrs. Martha Elba Garzon Bernal. Tlachinollan's representatives and the attorney, Vidulfo Rosales himself, held a meeting with senior Guerrero government officials of the administration of Angel Aguirre Rivero. We regret that senior representatives of the Federal Government did not attend the meeting to endorse commitments and ensure the effectiveness of the measures discussed.

The undersigning national and international organisations and human rights defenders express our concern for the threats against human rights defender Vidulfo Rosales Sierra, member of the Human Rights Centre "Tlachinollan". These are a direct retaliation to the work this organisation carries out collectively in the defense and promotion of human rights of the population of Guerrero over the last 18 years.

The text of the anonymous threat aims to inhibit the activities the team of Tlachinollan carries to support and accompany victims of human rights violations in cases such as the repression of the students of the Normal Rural College Raul Isidro Burgos in Ayotzinapa, Guerrero, last 12 December 2011.

Therefore, we demand the state and federal authorities to immediately and urgently implement effectively protective measures, to ensure the security and integrity of the defender, Vidulfo Rosales, his family and the team of Tlachinollan. Due to the implications of the threat and the deteriorated context of Guerrero, it is requested that the state and federal authorities to conduct all necessary actions and in coordination with the defenders ensure an effective investigation. In the

meantime, the human rights defender, Vidulfo Rosales Sierra, will leave the country temporarily.

For the undersigning organisations, the current situation faced by the Human Rights Centre "Tlachinollan" reflects the deterioration of the situation in which defenders do their work throughout the country. Despite the publicized announcement of new instruments, such as the mechanism of protection of human rights and the law recently passed on the subject, the harassment and attacks against activists continue to accumulate, leaving some with the only option to leave the country given the lack of effective security measures implemented by state and federal government.

Moreover, despite the statement by the Federal Government, to date the protection mechanism does not exist. It is essential to put it in place with the participation of senior representatives of the Federal government, in order to guarantee the design and implementation of agreed security measures ensuring its effectiveness in the states, where human rights defenders face the most significant risks.

The climate of adversity for human rights defenders in Guerrero has been increasing in recent years, reflected by the executions of Raul Lucas Lucia and Manuel Ponce Rosas, in 2009; repeatedly threats against Abel Barrera in 2010; the disappearance of Eva Alarcon and Marcial Bautista, occurred in 2011 and the criminalization of the Na Savi defender Maximino Garcia Catarino, only a few months ago in 2012. All these cases remain in impunity, aggravating the risk situation for the defenders. In order to prevent irreversible consumed attacks against the team of Tlachinollan, we urge for immediate safety measures and reiterate our support to the work of Tlachinollan. We hold state and federal governments responsibly of any attack against its members.

**International organisations:** Amnesty International; Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (USA); Human Rights Watch; Due Process of Law Foundation (USA); Washington Office for Latin America (USA); Misereor (Germany); Guatemala Protection Unit for Human Rights Defenders (UDEFEQUA); Propaz (Switzerland)

**Networks:** German Coordination for Human Rights in Mexico; National Network of Human Rights Organisations "All Rights for All"; composed by 71 organisations in 22 states of Mexico; Mexican Network of Communities Inflicted by Mining (REMA); Council of Ejidos and Communities Opposed to the Parota Dam.

National organisations: Services and Couceling for Peace (SERAPAZ); Human Rights Centre Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez; Consortium for Parliamentary Dialogue and Equity; FUNDAR, Centre of Analysis and Research; Litiga OLE; National Centre of Social Communication(CENCOS); Institute for Security and Democracy (INSYDE); Human Rights Centre "Fray Francisco de Vitoria O. P."; Women's Human Rights Centre of Chihuahua; Cerezo Committee; Urgent Action for Human

Rights Defenders (ACUDDHE); Women's Network of Ciudad Juarez; Mexican Centre of Environmental Justice; Mexican Commission of Defence and Promotion of Human Rights; Oaxaca Collective in Defence of Territory; Integral Processes for Self-determination; ENLACE Comunication and Training; Citizens in Support of Human Rights; Open Space Opposed to San Xavier Mine; Other Worlds; Consortium for Parliamentary Dialogue and Equity -Oaxaca; Bios Iguana; Collectivity Against Torture and Impunity; Mexican Centre of Environmental Law.

**Individuals:** Sergio Aguayo; Lucha Castro; Miguel Sarre

**Public Entities:** Mexico City, Commission of Human Rights.