



Protection  
Desk  
México



2 December 2010

## THREATS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN GUERRERO CONTINUE

On 28 November 2010, Cuauhtémoc Ramírez Rodríguez and Otilia Eugenio Manuel, both leaders and members of the Me'phaa Indigenous People Organisations (OPIM) received a new written threatening message, passed under the main door of their house.

The anonymous message focuses on the work at the OPIM of both Cuauhtémoc Ramírez Rodríguez and Otilia Eugenio Manuel; however, it also addresses the brave work of the defenders as members of OPIM, supporting the cases of the Me'phaa indigenous Inés Fernández Ortega y Valentina Rosendo Cantú, in their fight for justice, after being tortured and raped by members of the Mexican armed forces in 2002. The threat of life message expressively points out the demands of the OPIM on the issue of compliance with the sentences of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) that Otilia has been formulating since the decisions were dictated on the 30 and 31 August on the cases Inés and Valentina, respectively.

Threats against the OPIM have been a systematic obstacle to the important work they perform in Guerrero. The severe situation in the last pass years, lead the IACtHR to grant provisional measures to 107 human rights defenders in Guerrero, nearly one year and seven months ago. Subsequently the Tribunal decided to provide Valentina Rosendo and her family with similar provisional measures. The negligent response of the State in the face of such measures has diminished the situation, increasing the risk and threats.

Unfortunately, this case is not isolated. Human rights defenders in different regions in Mexico face high levels of risk and harassment because of their activities. In response, the State has not adequately implemented effective measures to protect the life and personal integrity of human rights defenders, and has not been diligent in the investigations of such risky situations.

Mexico, today, has not fully complied with the provisional measures and has proved lack of interest on executing them, mining the trust-building process and its credibility needed in such kind of implementation. Therefore, we are demanding the Mexican State to implement urgently the protection measures pending and to install, in the shorter possible term, work spaces to create a mechanism to prevent, protect and investigate aggressions and threats against human rights defenders.

At the same time, it is relevant to point out that such threats arrive few months after the IACtHR decided that the Mexican State is responsible for human rights violations against Inés Fernández Ortega and Valentina Rosendo Cantú, and are located within the context of delays in the process of complying with the sentences.

The process of implementation of the decision lacks of diligence and seriousness and proves as a factor of indifference to those in risk who are associated with both cases. Therefore, we add to our demands to the State to, shortly, officially start the activities related to the implementation of the resolution of the Tribunal, in compliance with the criteria established by the IACtHR.

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