

PBI MEXICO

New accompaniment in Oaxaca

Alejandro Solalinde Guerra, director of the *Hermanos en el Camino* Migrant Shelter

Due to serious, repeated attacks against him, PBI has received and accepted a request for accompaniment from Catholic priest Alejandro Solalinde Guerra, director of the Hermanos en el Camino Migrant Shelter. The request was submitted by the Dimensión Pastoral de la Movilidad Humana, a Mexican Catholic Church body which deals with migration.

Father Alejandro Solalinde Guerra is the coordinator of the south-eastern zone for the Dimensión Pastoral para la Movilidad Humana, a body which forms part of the Catholic Church and provides assistance to the migrant population which transits through the State of Mexico. In 2007, Father Solalinde founded the *Hermanos en el Camino* Migrant Shelter in the municipality of Ciudad Ixtepec, and has coordinated the project since.

Threats: Because of his work in providing migrants with humanitarian assistance, seeking justice for them, and denouncing those who attack them, Father Solalinde and the team at *Hermanos en el Camino* have suffered numerous attacks and threats.

The IACHR and the CNDH have both requested protection for the *Hermanos en el Camino* team

On 23 April 2010, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) granted precautionary measures for Father Solalinde and his colleagues, requesting that the State of Mexico adopt the measures necessary to guarantee the Father's life and personal integrity. The IACHR was apprised of the fact that Father Solalinde was detained and threatened when he



Father Alejandro Solalinde Guerra in Ciudad Ixtepec

attended the Public Prosecutor's Office of the State of Oaxaca as part of investigations into the murders of three migrants.

[Precautionary measures granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights \(MC250-09\)](#)

The Mexican National Human Rights Commission, in response to the attacks against Father Solalinde, granted him precautionary measures in 2007.

[Precautionary measures granted by the Mexican National Human Rights Commission \(65/2007\)](#)

Father Solalinde and his team believe that in implementing these protection measures, the Mexican State has not done enough to protect them or to investigate the acts of aggression they have suffered.



The *Hermanos en el Camino* team participates in a PBI security workshop

On 22 March 2010, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights held a thematic hearing on the Human Rights Situation of Migrants in Transit through Mexican Territory. Father Alejandro Solalinde attended the hearing.

In its press release No. 38/10, dated 26 March 2010, the IACHR states that it has “received very serious information regarding the large number of kidnappings for ransom of migrants in transit through Mexico, a figure reportedly as high as 18,000 in 2009”. The victims are frequently tortured. After the hearing, the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families expressed interest in conducting an on-site visit to observe the conditions of migrants in transit.

The civil society organisations which requested the hearing described *cases of aggression,*

intimidation, violence and kidnapping against people defending migrants’ rights. The requests made of the IACHR include, “*that the Commission exhorts the Mexican State to guarantee safe conditions for defenders of migrants’ human rights; to eradicate any action which criminalises the legal defence and consultation provided by Migrants’ Hostels and Shelters, Human Rights Centres, and other civil society organisations; and to inform the Commission of actions undertaken to fulfil the recommendations issued on this matter issued by entities of the Inter-American System*”.

The *United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants* has also expressed concerns about the situation of migrants passing through Mexican territory. In the report of his last visit to Mexico, he noted that “*transnational migration continues to be a business in Mexico, largely operated by transnational gang networks involved in smuggling and trafficking in persons and drugs, with collaboration of local, municipal, state and federal authorities. These practices are directly related to the rise in cases of violence [...] especially along the northern and southern borders, and at transit points*”.

The Special Rapporteur recommended that “*appropriate legislative reforms should be introduced to address impunity of human rights violations, one of the major weaknesses of the judicial system*” and that the Mexican Government “*establish obligations to report annually the number of judicial actions such as arrests and convictions against the perpetrators of violations of migrants’ human rights.*”

For more information on Father Solalinde, the Dimensión Pastoral de la Movilidad Humana, and violations against defenders of migrants' rights:

[Dimensión Pastoral de la Movilidad Humana](#) webpage

Amnesty International, [Invisible Victims: Migrants on the Move in Mexico](#), April 2010.

Amnesty International's campaign featuring Father Solalinde: [Stand Up United – An International Team Defending Human Rights](#), June 2010.

On the human rights violations suffered by the migrant population in Mexico:

[Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants](#), *Jorge Bustamante*, on his Mission to Mexico (9-15 March 2008) (A/HRC/11/7/Add.2).

[Secuestros a Personas Migrantes Centroamericanas en Tránsito por México](#) (in Spanish only) [*Kidnappings of Central American Migrants in Transit through Mexico*], a document prepared for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for the thematic hearing to be conducted on this issue by the *Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez, A.C. (Centro Prodh)*