

URGENT ACTION

MIGRANTS THREATENED AND ATTACKED IN MEXICO

Migrants in the city of Saltillo northeastern Mexico have been repeatedly threatened by the local residents and accused of being murderers. The threats follow the killing of a woman from Saltillo attributed to a Honduran migrant. The lives of the migrants and those who defend them may be at risk.

On 30 September, a 26-year-old woman from Saltillo was killed and the female domestic servant working in her house was badly injured. The killing has been attributed to a male migrant from Honduras, who was working as a painter for the dead woman, even though he was not authorized to be working in Mexico.

Since the killing was reported in the local media, which blamed the presence of migrants in Saltillo on the Belén Migrants' Shelter (Belén, Posada del Migrante), migrants in Saltillo have suffered repeated threats and abuse. On the morning of 2 October, a man came up to the door of the migrant's shelter waving a newspaper in his hand. He shouted at the migrants in the shelter saying that they were all murderers. That same evening, another man arrived at the shelter and accused the migrants of being criminals. On the morning of 3 October, a man from the local community stood at the door of the shelter with two broken glass bottles in his hands and threatened to hurt the migrants inside.

Since these events, the number of migrants arriving at the Belén Migrants' Shelter has decreased. Amnesty International is concerned the threats and attacks against **migrants in Saltillo** will escalate further and that the **staff running the Belén Migrants' Shelter** may be at risk of attack.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- √ Calling on the authorities to take appropriate protection measures to guarantee the safety of migrants in Saltillo;
- √ Calling on the authorities to guarantee the safety of the staff at the Belén Migrants' Shelter so that they can continue their work to defend the rights of migrants in Saltillo;
- √ Calling on the authorities to recognise the work of the shelter in providing humanitarian assistance to migrants.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 NOVEMBER 2009 TO:

Minister of Interior

Lic. Fernando Francisco Gómez-Mont Urueta
 Secretario de Gobernación
 Bucareli 99, 1er piso
 Col. Juárez, Del. Cuauhtémoc
 México D.F., C.P.06600, MEXICO
Fax: +52 55 5093 3414
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Minister/ Señor Secretario

Governor of Coahuila
 Profesor Humberto Moreira Valdés
 Gobernador del Estado de Coahuila
 Palacio de Gobierno,
 1er. Piso Juárez e Hidalgo s/n
 Zona Centro. C.P. 25000
 Saltillo, Coahuila MEXICO
Fax: (+52 844) 411 8585
Salutation: Dear Governor/ Señor Gobernador

President of the National Commission of Human Rights

Dr. José Luis Soberanes Fernández
 Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos (CNDH)
 Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos, Edificio "Héctor Fix Zamudio", 6° piso
 Blvd. Adolfo López Mateos n° 1922,
 Col. Tlacopac San Ángel, Del. Álvaro Obregón
 México D.F., C.P. 01040, MÉXICO
Fax: +52 55 5681 7199
Salutation: Señor Presidente / Dear President

COPIES TO: Belen Migrants' Shelter, Mexico **Fax + 52 844 4 14 83 17.**

And to diplomatic representatives of Mexico accredited to your country. Check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hundreds of thousands of irregular migrants (those without official travel documents) attempt to travel through Mexico from Central and South America every year to reach the USA. Many are detained by the Mexican migration authorities and returned to their countries of origin. Amnesty International recently visited Mexico to investigate reports of human rights violations against these people. It found that many had been kidnapped by gangs, sometimes with the complicity of local officials. Impunity for abuses against migrants, who are extremely vulnerable, has allowed these abuses to increase since about 2003, despite government commitments to ensure respect of migrants' rights.

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