

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER SHOT BY ARMED MAN

Mexican human rights defender, Salomón Monárrez Meraz, was shot three times by an unidentified armed man on 31 August. His life and that of other members of the organization may be in danger.

On 31 August, an armed man walked into Salomón Monárrez Meraz's shop in Culiacán, Sinaloa state, Mexico and fired several shots at him. Salomón Monárrez Meraz had just opened up his construction equipment shop for the day when he heard a gun being fired behind him. He turned around and saw an armed man wearing a balaclava shooting directly at him. The gunman fired nine rounds of ammunition of which three hit Salomón Monárrez Meraz in the ribs, collar bone and arm. The gunman ran from the shop as soon as he stopped firing. Nothing from the shop was stolen and the gunmen did not speak. Salomón Monárrez Meraz is recovering from his injuries in hospital and is in a stable condition.

Salomón Monárrez is a leader of the Sinaloan Civic Front (Frente Cívico Sinaloense, FCS), a human rights organization working to defend human rights across Sinaloa state. He has repeatedly spoken out about human rights violations in Sinaloa and particularly about abuses committed by members of the Mexican military. Amnesty International is concerned that the recent attack on Salomón Monárrez Meraz may be in retaliation for his human rights work. Other members of the Sinaloan Civic Front such as Mercedes Murillo, the president and founder of the organization, may also be at risk.

On 5 September 2007, one of the founders of the Sinaloan Civic Front, Ricardo Murillo Monge, was abducted. His body was found the following day in an abandoned car in Culiacán city, Sinaloa state, with a fatal bullet wound to the head. The investigation into the killing has yielded no results.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Spanish or your own language:

- ✓ Calling on the authorities to ensure that continuous and adequate protection measures for Salomón Monárrez Meraz and other members of staff at the Sinaloan Civic Front are put in place immediately, in accordance with their wishes;
- ✓ urging the authorities to carry out a prompt and independent investigation into the attack against Salomón Monárrez Meraz, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 14 OCTOBER 2009 TO:

Minister of Interior
 Lic. Fernando F. Gómez-Mont Urueta
Secretario de Gobernación
 Secretaría de Gobernación
 Bucareli 99, 1er. piso,
 Col. Juárez, Del. Cuauhtémoc,
 México D.F., C.P.06600, MEXICO
Fax: +52 5550 93 34 14
E-mail: secretario@segob.gob.mx
Salutation: Señor Secretario/Dear Minister

Attorney General of the Republic
 Lic. Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza
 Procuraduría General de la República
 Av. Paseo de la Reforma nº 211-213,
 Piso 16
 Col. Cuauhtémoc, Del. Cuauhtémoc
 México D.F., C.P. 06500, MEXICO
Fax: +52 5553 46 09 08
Salutation: Dear Attorney General/Señor Procurador General

Lic. Jesús Alberto Aguilar Padilla

 Gobernador del Estado de Sinaloa
 Palacio de Gobierno
 Av. Insurgentes, S/N 3er. Piso
 Culiacán 80129
 Sinaloa
 MÉXICO
Fax: +52 6677 14 78 70
E-mail: gobernador@sinaloa.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Governor /Señor Gobernado

Governor of Sinaloa
COPIES TO: Human Rights Centro, Culiacán, Sinaloa. C. P. 80000
Organization - Frente Cívico Sinaloense, Also send copies to diplomatic
 Angel Flores # 355 Pte. (interior) Col. representatives of Mexico accredited to

your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

UA 232/2009 Index: AMR 41/045/2009 Issue Date: 02 September 2009

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