



CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE MONTAÑA TLACHINOLLAN TO RE-OPEN OFFICE IN AYUTLA

In March of 2009, the Center for Human Rights of the Montaña Tlachinollan (Tlachinollan) decided to close its office located in Ayutla de los Libres, Guerrero, after an increase in threats and harassment against human rights defenders working in the area. The enforced disappearances and extra-judicial executions of indigenous defenders Raul Lucas Lucia and Manuel Ponce Rosas, President and Vice-president, respectively, of the Organization for the Future of Mixtec Peoples (OFPM), and the threats against the leadership of the Organization of Me'phaa Indigenous Peoples confirmed a situation of extremely high risk, which precluded the continued work in defense and promotion of human rights in the region.

Given the gravity of the risk, on April 9, 2009, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) ordered the Mexican state to implement a series of provisional protective measures to guarantee the life and personal integrity of 107 human rights defenders belonging to three organizations. These particular types of measures constitute the most extreme measure that the International Tribunal can order for the protection of persons at risk.

Due to the urgent need to continue to accompany those communities and individuals in the region who are demanding their rights, and with the eyes of the international community on the human rights situation in Ayutla, Guerrero; Tlachinollan—in coordination with the Organization for the Future of Mixtec Peoples, the Organization of Me'phaa Indigenous Peoples, the Guerrero's Civic Human Rights Organizations Network, the National Civic Human Rights Organizations "All Rights for all", Services and Consulting for Peace (SERAPAZ), the Center for Research and Analysis Fundar, the Institute for Security and Democracy (INSYDE), the Center for Social Communication Social (CENCOS), Amnesty International, Article XIX, Peace Brigades International (PBI), Misereor and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights—will re-open their Ayutla office with a public ceremony to take place on June 16, 2011.

The re-opening and resume of activities will be formalized by this public event, where it will be denounced the persistent obstacles which human rights defenders face in the region, and where the Mexican government will be called to comply with the provisional measures dictated by the Inter-American Court.

For Tlachinollan and the convening organizations, the re-opening of the Ayutla office by no means implies that the situation of risk has been surpassed or that the Mexican government has carried out the necessary actions to fully comply with the provisional measures. Rather, the re-opening event is meant to send a unified message on the necessity of the state to comply with its obligations to guarantee an adequate level of security for the continued work of human rights defenders in Mexico.

For more information

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