

URGENT ACTION

LANDOWNER'S MEN THREATEN RESIDENTS

People living in a neighborhood of the northern Mexican city of Ciudad Juárez, Lomas del Poleo, have been threatened by security guards working for a local landowning family. Most people have fled the area, but those still living there are at risk of attack.

Lomas del Poleo resident **Daniel Ramón Ramírez Hernández** was stopped by a security guard on 24 September, as he walked home from a community meeting, who told him, "Do not walk into my property or I will have someone beat you up and force you out" (*No te andes metiendo a mi predio o te mando a sacar a punta de chingazos yo mismo te mando a golpear*). Moments later, he was surrounded by three men on horses who threatened to beat him up. Just as Daniel Ramón Ramírez Hernández was arriving home another man drove past him in a pickup truck and told him, "We do not want to see you being part of protests, what the hell were you doing in that meeting" (*No te queremos ver metido en pedos, que chingados haces en esa reunion*).

Over the past two weeks, Lomas del Poleo residents have staged a sit-in to protest against the closure of the Lomas del Poleo school. During the sit-in, the protestors' homes have been broken into and ransacked by men who stole their belongings.

People living in Lomas del Poleo have been harassed and attacked since 2003 by men working for the landowner, who has tried to force them off land they have lived on for decades. In 2004 these men put up a barbed wire fence around the area, with a single entrance patrolled by security guards. In 2005, according to people living there, the guards set fire to 40 homes and beat a man to death. Few families still live in the area. They say they have told the local Public Prosecutor's office about what has happened, but there has never been a serious investigation.

Please write immediately in Spanish, English or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to provide appropriate protection to Daniel Ramón Ramírez Hernández and other residents of Lomas del Poleo, who have been threatened by security guards working for local landowners,;
- Urging them to order independent and impartial investigations into the attacks and intimidation, and to bring those responsible to justice;
- Urging them to prevent any attempt to drive residents of Lomas del Poleo off their land, and to ensure the dispute is resolved fairly and satisfactorily in the Agrarian Tribunal.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 NOVEMBER 2011 TO:

Governor of Chihuahua State

Lic. César Duarte Jáquez
 Gobernadora del Estado del Chihuahua,
 Palacio del Gobierno, 1er piso, C. Aldama
 #901, Col. Centro,
 Chihuahua, Estado de Chihuahua, C.P.
 31000
 MEXICO
Fax: 011 52 614 429 3300 (ext. 11066)
Email:
despachodelejecutivo@hotmail.com
Salutation: Dear Governor

Minister of the Interior

Lic. José Francisco Blake Mora
 Secretario de Gobernación
 Abraham González No.48
 Col. Juárez, Del. Cuauhtémoc
 México, D.F, C. P. 06600
 MEXICO
**Fax: 011 52 55 50933414 (a voice will ask
 for the extension: dial 32356)**
Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:

Mayor of Ciudad Juárez
 Ing. Héctor Murgía Lardizábal
 Presidente Municipal de Ciudad Juárez
 Unidad Administrativa Benito Juárez. Primer
 piso, ala norte.
 Av. Francisco Villa # 950 Norte, Cd. Juárez,
 Chihuahua
 MEXICO
Fax: 011 52 656 2078800 (ext. 2302)
Email: presidente@juarez.gob.

Also send copies to:

Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Embassy of Mexico
 1911 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20006
Fax: 1 202 728 1698 | Email: mexembusa@sre.gob.mx

Please check with the AIUSA Urgent Action Office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The land of Lomas del Poleo has become much more valuable over the last few years, as it stands between the city of Ciudad Juárez and an area which a group of businessmen are developing into a new urban and industrial area.

An Agrarian Tribunal, which is in charge of deciding who the lands belongs to, has been considering the dispute over the ownership of the Lomas del Poleo land for over a year. Negotiations between the local landowner, the federal government and the residents of Lomas del Poleo broke down in early 2011. Since then, despite its apparent commitment to seeking a solution, the federal government has made no attempt to communicate with the residents of Lomas del Poleo.

Name(s): Daniel Ramón Ramirez Hernandez (m)

Issue(s): Fear for safety, Threats, Forced eviction

Further information on UA: 15/09 (16 January 2009) and follow-ups (16 September 2009 ;10 December 2009; 3 February 2010, 1 April 2011)

Issue Date: 30 September 2011

Country: Mexico