

URGENT ACTION

MIGRANTS AT RISK OF MASS KIDNAPPING

On 6 July, migrants had to flee the Tenosique Migrants Shelter in Tabasco state, southern Mexico, after being threatened that they would be kidnapped. The lives of the shelter staff and migrants who stay at the shelter are at risk.

On 5 July, a young man claiming to be from Honduras arrived at "The 72" migrants' shelter ("La 72" Hogar Refugio para Personas Migrantes) in Tenosique, Tabasco state. The man asked the migrants staying at the shelter how many migrants were staying there, who was in charge of the shelter and who had the key to the shelter. The migrants did not respond to the man's questions. Following this questioning, the young man asked the person in charge of the shelter if he could take him to the local Migration Institute, claiming that he wanted to hand himself over to migration services and be deported back to his country. On the journey to the Migration Institute, the man told the staff member at the shelter that the migrants staying at the shelter would be kidnapped during the night and then jumped off the motorbike on which they were travelling and ran away.

In the early hours of the morning on 6 July, three pick up trucks stationed themselves in front of the shelter. Several people got out of the trucks and tried to enter the shelter by pushing on the front door but were not able to enter. The migrants staying at the shelter fled via the back entrance, jumping over the back fences to escape.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to provide immediate protection measures for the Tenosique migrants shelter to guarantee the safety of the staff and migrants at the shelter;
- Calling on the authorities to investigate all attacks, threats and intimidation against migrants and the staff who run the shelter and for those responsible to be brought to justice.
- Calling on the Interior Minister to lead the implementation of an action plan to protect the rights of migrants in transit including the effective investigation and prosecution of those responsible for abuses, protection of migrants at risk and collection and publication of nationwide data on abuses.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 AUGUST 2011 TO:

Minister of the Interior

Lic. José Francisco Blake Mora
 Secretario de Gobernación
 Bucareli 99, 1er. Piso, Col. Juárez
 Delegación Cuauhtemoc
 México DF, CP 06600
Fax: 011 52 55 50933414 (a voice will ask for the extension: dial 32356)
Salutation: Dear Minister

Governor of Tabasco

Q.F.B. Andrés Granier Melo
 Independencia # 2, Col. Centro,
 Villahermosa, Tabasco,
 México, CP 86000
Fax: 011 52 993 314 2612
Email: gobernador@tabasco.gob.mx
Salutation: Dear Governor

And copies to:

Migrant Shelter

"La 72" Hogar Refugio para Personas Migrantes
 Calle S/N, Colonia Estación Nueva,
 Tenosique, Tabasco
 México

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

Check with the AIUSA Urgent Action 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. During the visit, Amnesty International 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, despite government commitments to ensure respect of migrants' rights.

According to a report launched by Mexico's National Human Rights Commission, over a six month period in 2010 over 11 000 irregular migrants were kidnapped in Mexico.

Amnesty International recently made a film documenting the plight of Central American migrant travelling through Mexico, you can watch it and take action here: www.youtube.com/invisiblesfilms

Name: Staff and migrants at the "The 72" migrants' shelter (both m and f)

Issue(s): risk of abduction, harassment

UA 213/11

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Country: Mexico

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