

via fax 011 52 55 5093 3414 <b>Lic. Fernando Francisco Gomez-Mont Urueta</b> Minister of Interior of Republic of Mexico	via fax 011 52 55 5346 0908 <b>Lic. Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza</b> Attorney General of Republic of Mexico
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June 1, 2009

Dear Sirs:

We are gravely concerned for the safety of human rights activist and award-winning journalist **Lydia Cacho Ribeiro** of Cancun, Quintana Roo State, who has suffered harassment, threats and arbitrary detention for her work exposing a child pornography and trafficking ring. Since May 12, an armed man in a car has been watching and photographing her home and her car. Two men in a car have also been watching the office of the Women's Assistance Center (CAIM) where she works. Since February she has had several death threats sent to her blog. On May 19 one of these threats said, "dear lidia cacho get ready to have your throat cut, your lovely head will be left outside your apartment, let's see how brave you are."

The threats and harassment against Lydia Cacho began in 2005 after the publication of her book, *Los Demonios del Eden*, which documents allegations that powerful businessmen had been involved in child prostitution and trafficking. In December 2005, she was arrested and taken to Puebla City to face defamation charges. During the drive to Puebla the police officers threatened her with sexual assault, other ill treatment and disappearance. On May 7, 2007, a few days after she had given evidence at a hearing of the trial of one of the businessmen identified in her book, a car in which she was riding was tampered with in an attempt to cause a fatal accident.

In November 2007, Mexico's Supreme Court concluded that though there had been "irregularities" in her 2005 detention, Lydia Cacho had not suffered serious human rights violations. In March 2009, the National Human Rights Commission concluded she had suffered physical and psychological ill-treatment at the hands of the police who detained her.

**In view of the information cited above, we strongly urge that you**

- Order a full review of the protection provided for Lydia Cacho Ribeiro in order to guarantee her safety, in accordance with her wishes;
- Call for a full, impartial and prompt investigation into the threats that she received through her blog.

We are aware that journalists and media workers in Mexico face serious risk of being attacked or murdered as a result of their work. During the past nine years numerous journalists have been killed or gone missing and yet suspects are virtually never identified or brought to justice. You have the power and the consequent responsibility to see that journalists and human rights activists within your jurisdiction are protected. We strongly urge you to do so.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai  
 Coordinator

CC: Human Rights Organization ARTICLE 19 ~ via US Mail  
 Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 728 1698  
 Antonio O. Garza, Jr., US Ambassador to Mexico ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5207-0091  
 Mary Stickles, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via fax: 202.647.5752  
 Paolo Carozza US member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ fax: (202)458-3992  
 US Senators Brown & Voinovich and US Representatives Bocchieri, Fudge, Kaptur, Kucinich, LaTourette, Latta, Ryan, Space, Sutton, Wilson ~ via email

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**The following people hereby urge you to take action on this matter as indicated in this letter:**