

via fax: 011 52 55 5093 4901 Estimado Sr. Presidente Enrique Peña Nieto President of Mexico	via email: ofproc@pgr.gob.mx Estimada Señora Procuradora Arely Gómez González Attorney General of Mexico
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January 22, 2016

Dear President and Attorney General:

We are writing in protest of the continued imprisonment of human rights defender and indigenous leader **Nestora Salgado García**. Her appeal for release was rejected by the First Criminal Chamber of the Superior Tribunal of Justice of Guerrero on January 6.

Nestora Salgado García has worked for many years for the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination in Guerrero. Prior to her arrest in August 2013, she led the Regional Coordinating Body of Community Authorities: Community Police (CRAC-PC). This community police force was organized to combat increases in violent crime, political corruption and violations of the rights of indigenous people in the municipality of Olinalá. The Governor of Guerrero initially promised to support the community police force but then decided to eliminate it in November 2014.

Salgado García was illegally and arbitrarily detained on August 21, 2013, on fabricated charges of aggravated kidnapping. She has been kept under detention for more than two years and has yet to be tried for the charges she faces. The decision to uphold the detention order against her follows an appeal demanding her immediate release, based on a March 2014 decision of the First Unitary Tribunal of the Twenty-First Circuit of Chilpancingo. That decision revoked the original detention order due to a lack of evidence against Salgado. In spite of that court decision, she was never released.

During her time in detention at the maximum security federal prison in Nayarit, Nestora Salgado García reported that she was not provided access to proper medical treatment and that she had been subjected to ill-treatment. On January 28, 2015, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) issued precautionary measures in favor of Salgado because of the risk to her life and personal integrity. In May 2015 she began a hunger strike because the government still had not complied with the IAHCR measures. At the end of May she was transferred to Tepepan detention center in Mexico City, where she is still being detained.

We believe that Nestora Salgado García is being detained solely as a result of her legitimate and peaceful work in the defense of human rights. Therefore we **strongly urge** that you

- immediately and unconditionally release Nestora Salgado García, and drop all charges against her;
- guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of Nestora Salgado García;
- implement the measures requested by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights;
- guarantee in all circumstances that human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Stefan Szittai and Christine Stonebraker-Martínez
 Co-Coordiators

copies: Dr. Miguel Basáñez Ebergényi, Mexican Ambassador to the US ~ via fax: 202 833 4320
 Earl Anthony Wayne, US Ambassador to Mexico ~ via fax: 011-52-55-5080-2834
 Vaida Vidugiris, Mexico Desk, US State Dept ~ via email
 James Cavallaro, Rapporteur for Mexico and Rapporteur for Persons Deprived of Liberty, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via fax: (202)458-3650
 Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ~ via email
 US Senators Brown & Portman and US Representatives Fudge, Gibbs, Johnson, Jordan, Joyce, Kaptur, Latta, Renacci, Ryan ~ via email

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

The following people hereby urge that you take immediate action on this matter as indicated in this letter.