

## **MEXICO: Court sides with women's activist/journalist**

RRN letters 07/26/05 and 12/22/05

UA 37/05

RRN members have written to Mexican officials in defense of Lydia Cacho Ribeiro of Cancun, Quintana Roo State, a journalist and president of the Women's Assistance Center (CIAM). **From April 25 to July 1 she received at least 42 threatening phone calls** from a former state police officer whose wife and children are being sheltered by CIAM. **A new state administration withdrew protection from CIAM in April 2005.**

In 2004 Lydia Cacho published a book alleging the involvement of important businessmen in a child pornography ring. Police arrested her on December 16, 2005 after one of those businessmen filed a defamation complaint. Since defamation is a criminal offense, it is used to intimidate and silence journalists. She could face up to four years in prison.

### January 20 2006 update

A court agreed with Lydia's defense counsel that Lydia Cacho Ribeiro's trial on a charge of criminal defamation should be held in her home state of Quintana Roo, where she works as a journalist and is a women's and children's rights activist. Cacho claimed she could not get a fair trial in the southeastern state of Puebla because José Camel Nacif, the Puebla-based businessman who is suing her, has good connections with the authorities there. Cacho linked Camel Nacif to a child pornography ring in a 2004 book. No date has been set for the trial.

[Note: RRN members might have received a letter from the Attorney General of the State of Puebla regarding this case. The letter simply stated that her rights were being respected as she awaited her hearing.]