

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER AND FAMILY THREATENED

Malú García Andrade received two threatening phone calls while she was working in Mexico City, Mexico. The caller has threatened to take reprisal actions against her family.

Human rights defender **Malú García Andrade** received two anonymous phone calls on 17 October while carrying out advocacy activities in the Senate in Mexico City. The caller identified her two children by their clothing and location and told her they were going to be abducted and killed.

According to Malú García Andrade, she and her children are supposed to be accompanied by bodyguards resulting from a protection order from the Inter American Commission of Human Rights and implemented by the federal government. At the time of the threat she was accompanied by one bodyguard but not the second who was assigned to her. The other bodyguards assigned to her children were not working. In recent weeks, she informed Amnesty International, she had been told that bodyguards were gradually being reduced with a view to ending protection measures.

In the face of the immediate threat to her children, Malú García Andrade sought assistance from the government of Mexico City which sent a police patrol car to her home where her son was. The patrol car did not inform her son that it had checked the premises nor did it stay to guard against any potential attack.

Later the same day a representative of the Federal Interior Ministry's human rights unit accompanied Malú García Andrade to the Federal District prosecutor's office to file a criminal complaint regarding the threats. She believes they may be connected to her work supporting the relatives of abducted and murdered women in Mexico City and surrounding states. Malú García Andrade had been previously forced to flee Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua state, after receiving threats in connection with her human rights work.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- √ Expressing concern for the safety of Malú García Andrade and her two children;
- √ Calling for the protection measures to be strengthened to ensure the safety of Malú García Andrade and her children in accordance with their wishes;
- √ Calling for a full investigation into the threats against Malú García Andrade's family and into the apparent decision to reduce or remove the protection measures available to them.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 DECEMBER 2013 TO:

Minister of Interior

Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong
 Secretario de Gobernación
 Bucareli 99, col. Juárez, C.P. 6600,
 México D.F., México.
 Fax: +52 55 5093 3414 (keep trying)
 Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx

Salutation: Dear Minister

Head of Government of the Federal

District
 Miguel Ángel Mancera Espinosa
 Plaza de la Constitución y 5 de febrero
 7mo. Piso, Oficina 103, Col. Centro, C.P.
 06068, Del. Cuauhtémoc
 México D.F., México
 Fax: +52 55 5345 8030
 Email: jefaturadegobierno@df.gob.mx
Salutation: Head of Government

And copies to:

Local organization
 Serapaz
 Email: serapaz@serapaz.org.mx

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Malú García Andrade is part of Our Daughters Return Home (Nuestra Hijas de Regreso a Casa, NHRC), an organization that was founded in 2001 after a series of abductions and murders of women in Ciudad Juárez, including Lilia Alejandra García Andrade, Malú García Andrade's sister.

Her mother Norma Andrade, founder of NHRC, has also been a victim of threats in the past as a reprisal for her work as human rights defender. Malú García Andrade filed a formal complaint with the federal authorities on 30 September 2011 after she received a threatening telephone call. A few days later, a message was sent stating that she and her family had 12 hours to leave town or they would be killed. Since 2008, four NHRC members have protection orders from the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights requiring Mexican authorities to ensure their protection.

Threats, intimidations and attacks to human rights defenders and journalists in Mexico happens frequently. Investigations almost never result in the perpetrators facing justice, and this creates a climate of impunity and insecurity.

The Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists was unanimously approved by both houses of Mexico's parliament, and signed by the president, in 2012. The process for implementing the law is ongoing, including the direct participation of representatives of civil society. However, the mechanism has yet to function effectively for all those who have sought protection. Operational protocols, binding commitments of federal and state-level institutions to comply with protection orders, resources and high-level political support are all urgently needed to guarantee its effectiveness. It is vital that the authorities do not assume that their responsibilities are restricted to establishing a protection mechanism.

Amnesty International has welcomed the establishment in law of the mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders and journalists. Nevertheless, many of the defenders and journalists at risk who have sought protection measures to date have not received a timely or effective response. The mechanism is far from being operational and effective. Lack of financial resources and adequate staff, are some of these deficiencies. Others identified are: Investigations into attacks on defenders and journalists remain gravely deficient, including the special federal prosecutor for crimes against journalists. Virtually no one has been brought to justice. And, the underlying causes that have led to attacks on journalists and defenders, which often involve state and municipal authorities, are almost never investigated or resolved.

Name: Malú García Andrade

Gender m/f: f

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