

URGENT ACTION

THREATS DUE TO WIND FARM OPPOSITION CONTINUE

Human rights organization and activists continue to be threatened and harassed believed to be as a result of their opposition to the construction of a wind farm project in the Tehuantepec Isthmus, Oaxaca State, Mexico.

On 3 March the offices of human rights organization Human Rights Integral Defense Committee (Comité de Defensa Integral de Derechos Humanos Gobixha A.C., CODIGO-DH) were found raided. The doors were unlocked and halfway open, a computer had been left switched on and documents were missing. A formal complaint has been filed with the Oaxaca State Attorney's General Office (Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado de Oaxaca, PGJE). CODIGO-DH has recently been representing local communities campaigning against a wind farm project in the Tehuantepec Isthmus, Oaxaca State.

Many of the communities and their leaders have reported being threatened and harassed. Journalists covering the conflict have also been targeted. On 2 April, activist and community leader **Mariano López Gómez** was arrested by members of the Oaxaca State Police and was accused of extortion. He was released the following day. The arrest happened after a violent confrontation on 26 March between members of Oaxaca State Police and local Indigenous People opposing the wind farm project. According to witnesses the police used teargas, police batons and fired into the air to disperse the local community. There is also an arrest warrant for journalist **Carlos Sánchez López**, who works at a local radio station and received minor injuries in his leg and arm while covering the incident on 26 March.

Please write immediately in Spanish, English or your own language:

- ✓ Urging the authorities to guarantee the safety of all members of CODIGO-DH, Mariano López Gómez and Carlos Sánchez López, and other members of communities protesting against the construction of a wind farm in the Tehuantepec Isthmus and ensure that human rights organizations, human rights defenders and journalists are able to carry out their work without fear of reprisals or illegal detention;
- ✓ Urging them to carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the raid of CODIGO-DH and bring those responsible to justice;
- ✓ Urging them to ensure that the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous communities affected by the wind farm is obtained on the basis of reliable and accurate information on the impacts of the project, that the existing legal order suspending construction is upheld, and that police respect the rights of the communities to protest peacefully.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 MAY 2013 TO:

Minister of the Interior

Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong

Secretario de Gobernación

Bucareli 99, col. Juárez, Cuauhtemoc,

Distrito Federal, México, C.P. 6600

Fax: +52 55 5093 3414

Email: secretario@segob.gob.mx

Salutation: Dear Minister/Sr.

Secretario

Governor of Oaxaca State

Lic. Gabino Cué Monteagudo

Plaza de la Constitución, Centro

Histórico

Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca, México C.P.

68000

Fax: +52 95 1501 8100, ext.40068

Email: spagoboaxaca@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear Governor/Sr.

Gobernador

And copies to:

Local human rights organization

Comité de Defensa Integral de Derechos

Humanos Gobixha AC

Email: contacto@codigodh.org

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 28/13. Further information:

<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/004/2013/en>

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INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Some members of the indigenous communities living in Oaxaca State are opposed to the wind farm being built on their land. There are large-scale wind farm projects under development in the municipalities of San Dionisio del Mar, San Mateo del Mar, and Alvaro Obregón y Juchitán. Members of the community opposed to the projects argue that there has not been an adequate consultation process to obtain their free, prior and informed consent in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and they are concerned about the impact of the construction on their agriculture, land, and livelihoods. As a result of their opposition, they have experienced threats and intimidation for several months.

Amnesty International has reported previous threats and violence in other nearby communities against those opposing the construction of wind farm turbines in the Tehuantepec Isthmus. In previous months, threats have been received by Lucila Bettina Cruz Velázquez, members of the communities of Alvaro Obregón and San Dionisio del Mar in Oaxaca State, and other local human rights defenders protesting against the construction of wind farms. Alba Cruz, juridical coordinator at CODIGO-DH, has precautionary measures since 2007 from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos) for her human rights work.

For more information please see:

UA: 76/13 Index: AMR 41/013/2013, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/013/2013/en>

UA 28/13 (AMR 41/004/2013), <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/004/2013/en>

FU UA 62/12 (AMR 41/013/2012), <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AMR41/013/2012/en/03349cf0-bee8-48cd-ad07-c700f9af0d7b/amr410132012en.html>

FU UA 315/11 (AMR 41/069/2011), <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/069/2011/en>

Name: Members of CODIGO-DH, Mariano López Gómez (m), Carlos Sánchez López (m), members of local communities
Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 28/13 Index: AMR 41/016/2013 Issue Date: 5 April 2013