



Death Threats to Human Rights Defender

- In previous days his house has been raided by the Chiapas State Police.
- The threat is linked and was made in response to his involvement in the criminal investigation into the raid, abuse of authority and torture.

On the 14 of December, 2009, at approximately 19:15, in the city of Comitán de Domínguez in Chiapas, an anonymous note was left under the door of the home of Mr Adolfo Guzmán Ordaz, member of the “*Enlace, Comunicación y Capacidad A.C.*” (Enlace CC)¹. Written in letters cut from a newspaper it read: “*Don’t continue, you’re going to die*”². The note was found by Adolfo’s daughter, who immediately gave it to her mother, Mrs Margarita Guadalupe Martínez Martínez. The death threat was made two days before the hearing of a witness testimony before the Public ‘Ministry to identify one of the police officers that had raided their home one month before. As a result of this death threat, Adolfo and Margarita were not present at the hearing of December 16.

On November 8, at approximately 03:30, in Comitán de Domínguez, Adolfo’s home was raided; inside the house were his wife Margarita and his son and daughter, both minors. According to the evidence, some twenty police officers entered with the undue and disproportionate use of public force, they threatened Margarita, pointing arms and forcing her to show them every room in the house. At the same time Adolfo was interrogated about his activities with Enlace CC. The police took photographs and video of Adolfo’s house and family.

According to official information the police operation was directed at apprehending four people, leaders of different organizations “*that are committed to blocking stretches of highway, streets and avenues in order to protest on Government property*”. In order to carry out these arrest orders, 19 State Preventive Police (PEP), 10 Ministerial Police (PM), 4 public ministry agents, 20 Comitán Municipal Police and even criminology experts were brought in to support the operation. On the 10 of November, in one of the corridors of the “*Fiscalía de Distrito Fronterizo Sierra, en Comitán de Domínguez*”³, Margarita identified one of the alleged perpetrators of the raid. Adolfo presented the corresponding formal complaint before Lic. Pedro Raúl López Hernández, head of the the Office for the Protection of Non Governmental

¹ Enlace, Comunicación y Capacitación, AC – Network, Communication and Training, Civil Association. See “Background information” below.

² “No sigan, se van a morir”

³ Literally: the Prosecutor’s Office of Border mountain District



Human Rights Organizations” of The State Justice Attorney General’s Office of Chiapas (PGJE) ⁴, initiating the criminal investigation 0004/FEPONGDDH/M1/2009; for the crimes of raiding, torture and abuse of authority. The death threat of 14 December was added to this criminal investigation.

On November 25, Adolfo and Margarita found an anonymous note that said: *“I am your neighbor. Last night there were five men standing guard outside the house and watching, be careful and please take care of your children.”*⁵

Adolfo and his family have been sufficiently intimidated as to look for another place to live temporarily, the members of the family are in therapy, demonstrating the extent to which their physical and emotional health has been affected.

According to the facts this Human Rights Centre considers Adolfo Guzman Ordaz, member of Enlace CC, and his family at high risk.

We are requesting of the State Government of Chiapas that, with prior consultation with the affected persons, they guarantee to implement the necessary measures to safeguard the life, the personal integrity and personal security of Adolfo Guzman, his family and the other members of Enlace CC, headquarters Comitán de Domínguez.

We ask of the PGJE to speed up their investigations into these acts and bring to justice those who are responsible, remembering that the Inter-American Court of Human Rights has stated that State Governments have an obligation to investigate and punish all people that participate in the planning and funding of the violation of the rights of people who dedicate their lives to defending human rights. This investigation and biased punishment only increase the impunity of these crimes, and with this, the risk shared by many human rights defenders.

Background information: Enlace CC.

Enlace, comunicación y capacitación, AC, is a civil organization, independent and secular, founded in 1982, its main headquarters are found in Mexico City. In Chiapas, there are two headquarters, one in Ocosingo and the other in Comitán de Domínguez, this being where Adolfo Guzmán collaborates.

Enlace CC is made up of professionals that encourage and facilitate processes of local sustainable development in indigenous and peasant regions in the center and south of Mexico. Enlace CC promotes the importance of popular groups, communities and indigenous and peasant organizations to boost alternatives to local development with a regional perspective, and in so doing construct a fairer and more supportive society. Acting from the

⁴ la Fiscalía Especializada para la Protección de los Organismos No Gubernamentales para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, de la Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado de Chiapas (PGJE)

⁵ *“soy su vecino. Anoche estuvieron 5 hombres vigilando la casa, tengan cuidado por favor cuiden a sus hijos”.*



perspective of gender and sustainability and from the just demands of economic, social and cultural rights.
