

Petition to release Raúl Hernandez

Raúl Hernandez, who Amnesty International named a prisoner of conscience in November 2008, has been locked up in a Guerrero State prison in Mexico for over a year for a crime he did not commit. On 17 April, indigenous activists Raúl Hernández, Manuel Cruz, Orlando Manzanarez, Natalio Ortega and Romualdo Santiago were detained and charged with the murder of Alejandro Feliciano García on 1 January 2008 in the village of El Camalote, Guerrero state. On 19 March 2009, Manuel Cruz, Orlando Manzanarez, Natalio Ortega and Romualdo Santiago were released. Amnesty International believes that the case against the remaining detainee, Raúl Hernández, is spurious and has been brought in reprisal for his legitimate activities promoting the rights of their community and exposing abuses by a local political boss (cacique) and local authorities.

We request the immediate and unconditional release of Raúl Hernández. In addition, we want a full and impartial investigation into the murder of Alejandro Feliciano García in order that those truly responsible for his death be brought to justice and a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the killing of OPIM member Lorenzo Fernández Ortega, and for those responsible to be brought to justice and for reparation to be provided. The human rights work of OPIM is recognized by the authorities as making an important contribution to improving respect for indigenous rights and helping indigenous communities overcome poverty and marginalization - please protect their human rights!

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